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DIMBLEBY SILENCED
War correspondent's son
tells how his father
was censored, page 21



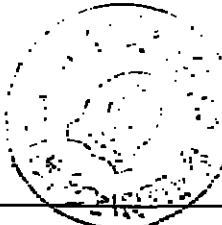
MEDICAL BRIEFING
Thomas Stuttford on
when sex can be fatal
for a mother, page 3

20P

THE TIMES

No. 65,259

FRIDAY MAY 5 1995



Soloists Kokila Mino-Nahab, 11, and Sam Gordon, 12, rehearse Songs For A Better World at Hyde Park yesterday for Sunday afternoon's VE-Day commemoration ceremony which will be attended by 60 heads of state. Page 2

New tax chaos hits Tories on polling day

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND ROBERT MILLER

KENNETH CLARKE was forced into a hurried retreat over tax policy yesterday for the second time in 48 hours. The Chancellor acted to calm fears that some nine million people insured against redundancy and sickness could be taxed on payouts. But he was unable to stop Labour and Liberal Democrats seizing on the impression of shambles in the Government as voters in England and Wales went to the polls in the local elections.

Mr Clarke issued a personal statement contradicting an Inland Revenue announcement on Wednesday that insurance payments to cover personal debts could be taxed. He said that no decision had been taken.

On Tuesday, Mr Clarke had to rush out a statement announcing that mortgage insurance payments would be exempt from tax, and yesterday insurers accused him of creating confusion with a "kneejerk" reaction. They urged him to clarify the rules within days.

The Chancellor's unexpected intervention led to heated Commons exchanges between John Major and Tony Blair. The Labour leader accused the Government of a pre-election panic attack, saying: "It bears all the hallmarks of his Government... begins in incompetence, falls into confusion and ends in chaos."

Mr Clarke said that Mr Clarke's announcement on mortgage payouts had been an unnecessary kneejerk reaction. Virtually all benefits from these policies were not taxed because payments were usually guaranteed for up to 12 months. Only where the guarantee went beyond that was there tax liability. "It was an academic point," he told BBC Radio's *World at One*.

Politics 9
Subsidy to subsistence 29

With the Conservatives heading for heavy losses in the council elections, Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said: "Millions of people will be worried because the Chancellor can't tell us who is subject to tax and who is not. His policy is in chaos and confusion. The Chancellor has been forced to set up a second review in two days. This is no way to run the tax policies of our country."

Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, said: "These increases come hard on the heels of tax on insurance premiums. Tax on premiums and tax on payouts — surely even the Chancellor must be ashamed. This is a tax on insecurity. The Government has created insecurity over employment and housing and now is slapping tax on it."

Mr Clarke had been forced to react to the Inland Revenue statement after insurers claimed that taxing payouts could severely damage the £1.25 billion redundancy insurance market. They said the Government had created anomalies overnight between general redundancy insurance schemes and mortgage protection policies.

They also reacted angrily to a suggestion by Sir George Young, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, that the review might last until July. Tony Baker, deputy director-general of the Association of British Insurers, said it could all be sorted out when association delegates meet Inland Revenue to discuss the matter on Tuesday.

They also reacted angrily to a suggestion by Sir George Young, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, that the review might last until July.

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TESTPLAN

The national curriculum science tests for all 11-year-olds in England and Wales start on Tuesday. Use today's Testplan (page 36) for revision tips and examples of the questions. Next week: preparing for the tests for 11-year-olds.

Cabinet backs nuclear sell-off

Michael Heseltine secured the approval of the Cabinet for the sale of the nuclear industry before the next election. Page 2

Militants threaten Algeria's women with death

By MICHAEL BINNON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

HUNDREDS of thousands of wives, mothers and daughters of the troops, police and Government servants fighting the Muslim militants in Algeria have been put under virtual sentence of death by an extremist group that has publicly threatened to kill them.

The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), most violent of the Islamic fundamentalists fighting the Algerian military Government, published its warning in a communiqué to a London-based Arabic newspaper. Previous warnings of terrorist action have usually been followed by bomb explosions and assassinations.

The warning, issued to women on Wednesday, was published in *al-Hayat*, and threatened death to all women associated with the regime who failed to wear a veil or insisted on acquiring an education instead of staying closeted in their homes.

The warning, signed by Abu Abdallah Ahmed, the group's leader, said that every woman still married to an "atheist" risked death. Fundamentalists define atheists as all those who advocate secularism or do not subscribe to their draconian interpretation of Islam.

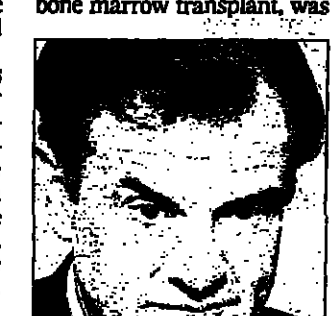
"Every renegade's wife must leave him because the marriage is considered annulled without the involvement of a judge, because of his husband's heresy," it added. "Every man who, after the publication of this statement, marries a woman under his authority off to a Continued on page 2, col 6

Leukaemia girl's treatment wins a glimmer of hope

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE ten-year-old girl denied treatment for leukaemia after an emotional court battle over National Health Service care is clear of the cancer for the time being, her doctor said yesterday.

The girl, known only as B, is in complete remission after receiving two courses of chemotherapy at a private hospital. Dr Peter Gravett, the consultant haematologist in charge of her treatment at the Portland Hospital in London, said that tests showed there was no leukaemia visible in her bone marrow.



Gravett: "remission is likely to be short-lived"

"much better than when she came at the beginning of March". The girl was refused treatment by her local health authority in Cambridge in February, when a bone marrow transplant failed to cure her cancer. The health authority believed, on specialist advice, that her chance of survival was too low, that further treatment would cause the child unnecessary suffering, and that the £75,000 cost could not be justified.

She became the focus of an emotional legal battle when her father took the health authority to court in March over its decision not to pay for further treatment. Although he lost the case, an anonymous donor agreed to pay the bill, which so far stands at £45,000.

Major says peace talks will go ahead

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR yesterday indicated that the first talks between ministers and Sinn Féin would go ahead next week despite Republican violence during his visit to Londonderry this week.

Minutes after Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, refused to apologise for the incident, Mr. Major made clear that he would not let the riots derail the peace process. Ulster Unionists immediately accused the Prime Minister of caving into the IRA after a 24-hour "sommersault".

On Wednesday night after the protests, Mr. Major said that the Government might not proceed with exploratory talks unless Sinn Féin denounced what had happened. Michael Ancram, the Minister for Political Development in Northern Ireland, is due to meet Martin McGuinness, a Sinn Féin leader, next Wednesday.

However, yesterday Downing Street disclosed that the Prime Minister's initial anger had been overridden by his determination to continue the peace process, and nail Sinn Féin down over decommissioning the IRA's weapons. Having talked to advisers the Prime Minister is now intent on using the exploratory talks to "decontaminate" Sinn Féin by asking hard questions over the IRA's commitment to laying down its arms.

In the Commons, Mr. Major used some of his strongest language yet to condemn the Continued on page 2, col 6

Leading article, page 21

Wife who killed alcoholic wins new hearing

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT



Thornton: went on 20-day hunger strike

SARA THORNTON, the woman jailed for life for murdering her alcoholic husband, had her conviction referred back to the Appeal Court by the Home Secretary yesterday.

Michael Howard, who refused a fresh appeal almost two years ago, changed his mind after new representations by her solicitors.

The Home Secretary's decision was taken four months after Thornton's lawyers submitted to him new eyewitness

accounts of the violence inflicted upon her by her husband, Thornton, 38, was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1990 for stabbing her husband Malcolm as he lay on the sofa at their home in Atherstone, Warwickshire, in June 1989, recovering from a drinking bout.

At her trial at Birmingham Crown Court she pleaded not guilty to murder on the grounds of diminished responsibility. Because she was convicted of murder, the judge had to impose a mandatory life sentence.

Eighteen months later, her appeal on the grounds of provocation was turned

down. She claimed she had been subjected to violent attacks and had endured a series of beatings during her ten-month marriage to the former police officer.

Her case was taken up by women's groups protesting about domestic violence and by lawyers and MPs wanting reform of the law governing domestic murder trials. She also went on a 20-day hunger strike. Mr Howard's decision was taken only 20 hours before her lawyers were due in court, to seek leave for judicial review of Mr Howard's decision in 1993 not to send the case back to the Appeal Court.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



How to gain free family entry to English Heritage properties
MAGAZINE
William Rees-Mogg on VE-Day, and the end of innocence

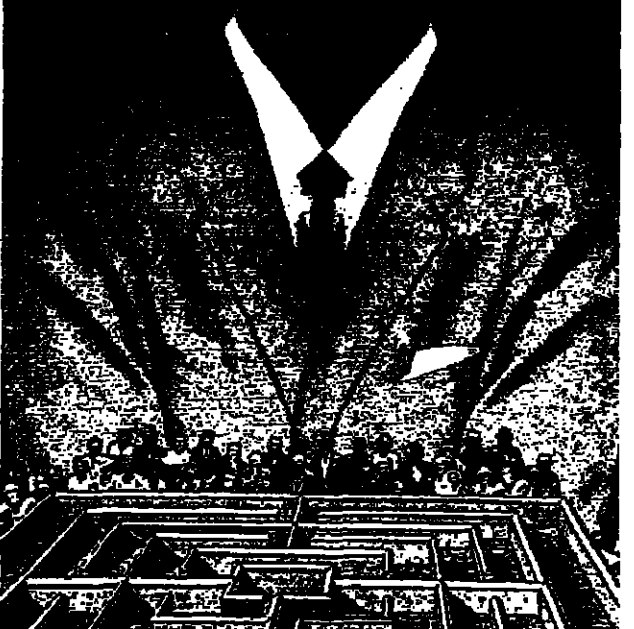
WEEKEND
The £100 prize jumbo crossword

VISION
The best of Bank Holiday TV and radio

Kazuo Ishiguro The Unconsoled

the new novel by the Booker Prize-winning author of *The Remains of the Day*

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Protest groups present dossier of alleged attacks that have not gone to court

Women accuse CPS of failing to prosecute in rapes

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Crown Prosecution Service stands accused today of regularly failing to prosecute rape cases. Two women's groups, Women Against Rape and Legal Action for Women, publish a dossier of cases today which they say they are among the many turned down by the CPS.

They list 15 cases where women have alleged rape and the CPS has refused to prosecute or in one case, where the case went to court only to be thrown out for reasons of delay the CPS admitted causing.

"Increasingly people have been forced to take the law into their own hands by bringing private prosecutions and civil actions when the CPS refused to prosecute," the groups say. A private prosecution for rape was brought in Scotland a few years ago leading to the conviction of the men concerned.

The dossier is being sent to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Chief Justice and Director of Public Prosecutions, Barbara Mills, QC, who has already refused to review the original decisions not to prosecute in each of the cases.

Five of the victims are or were children at the time of attack; three are women with disabilities; three are black; one is an immigrant and two

are students. Only two of the women and children were raped by complete strangers.

The reasons given by the CPS for turning down the prosecutions — all reported in the past three years although some of the alleged rapes date back further — is that the evidence in each is "insufficient", "inconclusive" or "uncorroborated".

"Yet many of the cases in the dossier have far stronger evidence than some the CPS has prosecuted recently," the groups say. "In others, where there is only 'her word against his', the circumstantial evidence greatly reinforces the victim's testimony; yet the CPS has refused to allow a jury to consider this evidence."

Anne Neale, of Women Against Rape, said that they were concerned that the cases were only the tip of the iceberg. "The Director of Public Prosecutions, Barbara Mills, QC, seems to think these are individual instances where we are concerned about; but the point is that there is a pattern here."

The dossier showed that the chances of justice for women and children who are raped or sexually assaulted "is very low indeed," she added.

"Only one in 200 rapes end up in a conviction. Only one in

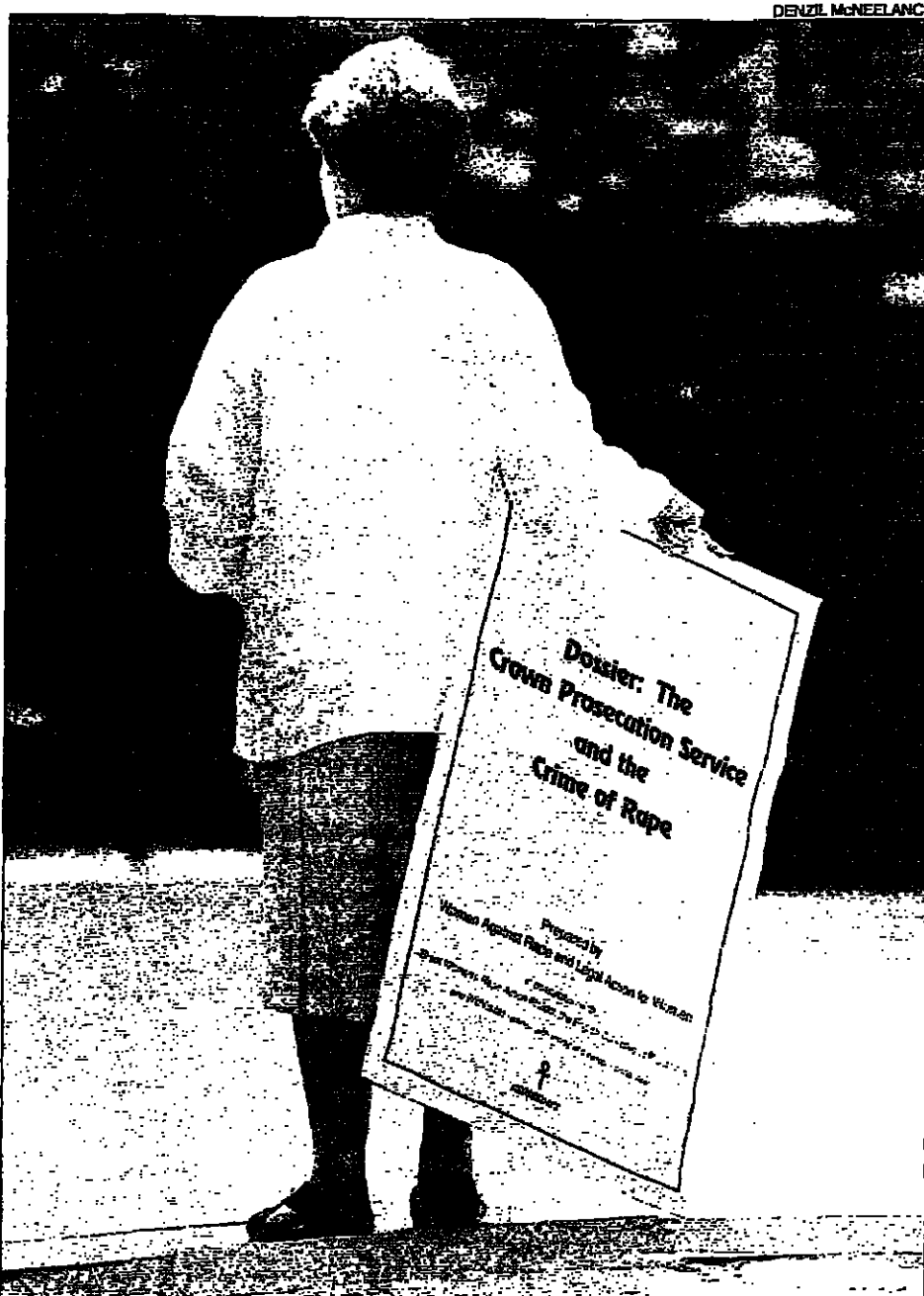
12 women raped report it to the police; of reported rapes, the police fail to record about one in three; the CPS take only about one fifth of recorded rapes to the crown court and only one tenth of recorded rapes result in a conviction."

A key feature to emerge from the dossier, she added, was that most of the women had known their alleged attacker — they were either husbands, relatives or acquaintances. "This confirms that the prosecuting authorities are particularly reluctant to step in where the rapes have a domestic context."

Secondly, the victims were all particularly vulnerable, she added. They included women with disabilities, black and immigrant women prostitutes. "The CPS denies any discrimination against particular sectors but the facts contradict this."

Some of the cases have already been taken up with Mrs Mills by Harry Cohen, Labour MP for Leyton. She asked for details of the cases but declined to meet to discuss policy generally.

"Having written a number of times and having received a dismissive reply each time, we felt that it was time to let everyone have the details," Women Against Rape says.



One of the women at yesterday's launch of the dossier of cases dropped by the CPS

Man denies assault on youth in park

By FRANCES GIBB

A MAN was accused at the Old Bailey yesterday of attempting to rape another man, a charge allowed by the Criminal Justice Act of 1994.

Louise Kamill, for the prosecution, told the court that Andrew Richards, 26, had attacked the 18-year-old youth after luring him to a secluded spot in Regent's Park, central London, last December.

Mr Richards, of Niseth, Mid Glamorgan, and the young man had both been staying at a hostel in London.

Miss Kamill said that Mr Richards had suggested a short cut through Regent's Park. Rain began to fall and they took shelter in the porchway of a closed cafe. But as they did so Mr Richards began to throttle the young man, it was alleged.

The youth, terrified and confused, tried to struggle, but was ordered not to. Then the older man began kissing him and subjected him to a series of degrading sexual assaults, the court was told.

Finally Mr Richards was alleged to have ordered the youth to lie face down on the ground while he tried to rape him. He was unable to do so because of the teenager's struggles.

Mr Richards denies attempted rape, assault occasioning actual bodily harm and two counts of indecent assault. The trial continues.

Salmonella test traces danger in five hours

An Anglo-German team of scientists has developed a method of detecting salmonella in eggs within five hours instead of three days. It is expected to reduce the 185,000 annual cases of salmonella poisoning in Britain and Germany alone and to cut the costs of food companies testing for freshness.

Salmonella is triggered into growth by a source of iron when the eggshell is cracked. Feeding the bacteria with a source called ferrioxamine gives it an early "wake-up call".

Livestock move

The livestock haulier International Traders Ferry was given leave in the High Court to seek an urgent judicial review of a decision by the Chief Constable of Sussex, Paul Whitehouse, not to provide daily protection against animal welfare protesters at the port of Shoreham-by-Sea.

Fiennes film

Ralph Fiennes, the toast of Broadway for his portrayal of Hamlet, is to play a British airman shot down during the war, in a film based on Michael Ondaatje's Booker Prize-winning novel, *The English Patient*. It will also feature Kristin Scott-Thomas and Juliette Binoche.

Clerk banned

Michael Canavan, 21, a solicitor's clerk employed by Frederick West's lawyer, Howard Ogden, has been banned for life from working for a law firm by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal in London. Mr Canavan tried to sell the alleged killer's story to a newspaper for £60,000.

Do you dig it?

Stan Steele, an artist, is to get a £1,000 grant from Colchester and District Visual Arts Trust in Essex to grow an acre of potatoes. Art lovers may watch the crop progress and, at harvest, buy a potato — complete with special bag and message — either for mounting or eating.

Bar chief appeals for evidence that students were asked for sex

By FRANCES GIBB



Hewson: criticised chambers

THE Bar chairman last night appealed for anyone with evidence that women studying to become barristers had been offered pupilships by senior Bar members in exchange for sex to come forward.

Peter Goldsmith, QC, said such "outrageous" offers would constitute serious professional misconduct. He was commenting on a report that sexual harassment was "unacceptably prevalent" among barristers and that some heads of chambers were avoiding their responsibilities to stamp it out.

Barbara Hewson, chairwoman of the 500-strong Association of Women Barristers and a member of the Bar Council's sex discrimination committee, makes the claims in an article in today's *New Law Journal*.

She said: "Sexual harassment is still unacceptably prevalent in our profession." She had heard of a number of Bar students who were promised pupilships — traineeships with senior barristers — in return for sexual favours.

Mr Goldsmith said Miss Hewson had only second-hand knowledge of three instances of women being offered traineeships for sex. About

700 pupilship places are obtained by a student barristers each year, about 280 of them women.

Nigel Pascoe, QC, a senior barrister and leader of the Western circuit, writes in the same issue that "persistent sexual innuendo aimed at the most vulnerable is utterly indefensible."

"Traditionally the Bar has been made up largely of middle-class white men, accustomed to relaxing in a locker-room intimacy." Successful women had been strong enough to survive the insults or reply in kind. But the world had changed and "too many are unaware of the

hurt and offence caused to a generation of recruits who are simply no longer prepared to make allowances for male pride."

Miss Hewson said many heads of chambers ignored the equal opportunities framework put in place by the Bar Council and instead reacted to complaints of harassment or discrimination by putting pressure on the women concerned either to drop the complaint or leave the chambers. She urged the Inns of Court to seize the chance now presented and make it a rule that a barrister could not be a pupil master — in charge of a trainee —

without having an equal opportunities policy, including sexual harassment policies, in place.

The Bar Council — which represents the 8,093 barristers in England and Wales, of whom 1,763 are women — prosecutes allegations of sexual harassment "with vigour", Mr Goldsmith said.

Recently, in the first case in which a barrister was brought before the Bar disciplinary tribunal, Nigel Hamilton, QC, 57, was suspended for three months as a barrister and lost his job as a part-time judge after harassing a defendant and a solicitor's clerk.

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Curriculum chief says classical roots are withering

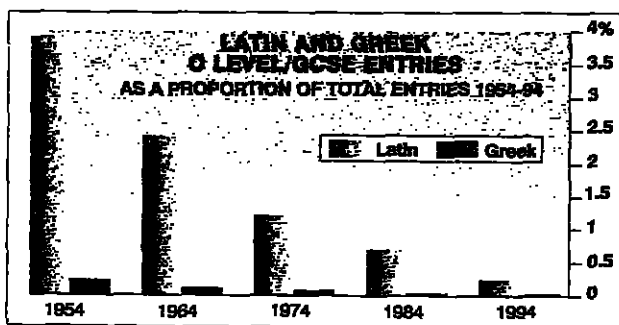
Teachers urged to restore Latin to the timetable

BY BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A PASSIONATE appeal for the restoration of Latin to school timetables to stop British children becoming the classical dunces of Europe will be made by the Government's senior curriculum official today.

Dr Nick Tate, chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, will urge head teachers to consider using the extra day a week made available under the slimmed-down national curriculum to reverse a 30-year decline in classical subjects. He will emphasise the greater importance given to Latin elsewhere in Europe.

In a speech at the Cambridge Institute of Education, Dr Tate will propose a six-point action plan for the revival of classics in primary and secondary schools. He will tell teachers to "think the unthinkable" and explore ways of using the latest information technology to win



the interest of pupils. He believes head teachers should resist pressures to determine the curriculum solely in terms of "narrow utilitarian considerations about employability".

Dr Tate will highlight the success of intensive Latin study by pupils aged 10 and 11 in deprived urban areas in the United States. This has been shown to promote greater awareness of English among pupils and more rapid learning of Romance languages.

Dr Tate is alarmed by the demise of classics in schools. Last summer just 12,800 pu-

pils sat GCSE Latin, down from 53,000 O-level entries in 1964. Similarly, ancient Greek has become far less popular. He believes Latin and Greek are part of the "cement which helps to hold together the consciousness of nation and to provide some continuity across the generations".

Dr Tate will contrast the place of Latin in English schools with the importance it has in other European countries. He will point to France, where Latin is compulsory for all pupils with children introduced to the subject between 11

and 14. Dr Tate has commissioned research showing that Latin is compulsory for pupils in higher streams in Denmark; Luxembourg; Italy; the Netherlands; parts of former Yugoslavia; Hungary; and Romania.

Dr Tate will argue that even in continental countries where Latin is optional, take-up of the subject is much higher than in England. In Germany, some 14 per cent of pupils study Latin.

Under his plan, schools should ensure they make best use of opportunities to study ancient Greek history and legends and the Roman Empire as part of the curriculum. Latin and other classical subjects could be introduced between 11 and 16.

Dr Tate will give warning that "our sense of communal identity is in danger of withering away. We have virtually forgotten our roots in the world of Greece and Rome." However, he will add, much of this could be recovered if there is a will.



Ray Bryant with his wife Vera: "I can be made ill by handling wool sheared from sheep dipped months before"

Sheep dip blamed for mental illness

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of farmers who say their health has been wrecked by exposure to sheep dips were supported yesterday by new scientific research.

The most commonly used dips can impair mental ability and cause chronic nerve damage, according to a three-year study commissioned by the Health and Safety Executive. Dr Anne Spurgeon of Birmingham University, who headed the research team, said: "We found subtle

effects on the nervous system, on the ability to reason and to process information, similar to what you would get with the ageing process."

Ray and Vera Bryant, who keep 200 ewes at Greenham, Somerset, believe they are victims of the dips, which contain organophosphorous (OP) compounds. Mr Bryant first noticed effects six years ago. Since then he has suffered persistent tiredness, loss of concentration and frequent bouts of flu-like symptoms. "I can be made ill simply by handling wool that has been sheared from sheep

dipped months before," he said. "We have thought of suing for compensation but no amount of money would bring back our health."

Despite the research, the HSE said that it would not be recommending a ban on the dips. Ed Friend, an HSE agriculture inspector, said: "Provided farmers follow the recommended precautions, we believe that all types of dips can continue to be used safely." The Agriculture Ministry says that during dipping farmers should wear a waterproof boiler suit, rubber boots, gloves and face shield.

Food in store for the grate outdoors

THE promise of a balmy Bank Holiday weekend should encourage cooks to dust off their barbecues. Supermarkets have cut prices of steak and salmon to tempt shoppers to celebrate the start of summer in style (Sarah Hall writes).

Waitrose is selling Scotch beef sirloin steaks at £4.99 a lb and Aberdeen Angus rump steaks at £3.99 a lb. British beef fillet costs £6.49 a lb at Asda, while thin loin steaks are £4.99 a lb at Marks & Spencer.

Other advertised best buys: Asda: chicken breast fillets, 1lb 15oz, £5.99; milk chocolate cake, 69p.

Badger: Davidstow vintage mature cheddar, £1.89 a lb; white finger rolls, 47p for 6. Co-op: McVitie's low fat St Clement's cheesecake, 250g, 99p; Kellogg's Coco Pops, 375g, £1.39.

Iceland: Bowyer's half fat sausages, 2lb, £2.79; turkey steaks, £1.99 for 8.

Kwiksave: Cafe Hag, 100g, £1.95; Bird's Eye chicken burgers, 97p for 4. Marks & Spencer: chocolate swiss roll, 49p; strawberry compote, 270g. Safeway: closed cup mushrooms, 99p a lb; Coca-Cola, 12 x 330ml, £2.69. Sainsbury's: chicken drumsticks, 2.3kg, £2.79; squeeze tomato ketchup, 750g, 79p.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

burger buns, 12 for 69p. Somerfield: black grapes 99p a lb; smoked rindless back bacon, 8 slices, 99p.

Tesco: Jersey new potatoes, 89p per lb; whole prawns, 34p a lb. Waitrose: fresh chicken, 3lb 1 oz, £2.59; pineapples, 59p each; cherry tomatoes, 99p a lb; assorted spicy dips, 4x55g, £1.49.

Waking up to sleeper

THE Fort William to London sleeper, due to be axed in three weeks, is so busy that an extra carriage has been added to the train (Gillian Bowditch writes).

Duncan McPherson, convener of Highland Regional Council, said the service had been near to capacity and was fully booked from May 18-26.

Scotrail had added a carriage to keep up with demand, increasing the number of berths from 36 to 60.

Highland Regional Council is fighting the decision to cut the service in a case beginning in the Court of Session in Edinburgh today.

Letters, page 21

This weekend we forecast high temperatures and low prices.



£5 Do It All voucher for every £40 spent on barbecues and garden furniture.

It looks like summer has finally arrived. The bank holiday weekend is the perfect opportunity to just laze around the garden. So why not make it special? If you buy a barbecue or garden furniture from us this weekend, we'll give you a £5 Do It All voucher for every £40 you spend. So you'd better hurry down to Do It All soon, the offer is only valid this Saturday, Sunday and Monday until 6pm. Even though we can't guarantee good weather, we can always guarantee good offers.

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Scientists say bottle of wine a day is the key to longer life

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

DRINKING up to a bottle of wine a day cuts the risk of premature death by half, scientists have found. In a study that will set corks popping, researchers have found that drinking alcohol does protect against heart disease, but only when it is taken as wine, not as beer or spirits.

Scientists at the Institute for Preventive Medicine in Copenhagen, who studied 13,000 men and women living in the city over 12 years, say that drinking beer gave no protection and drinkers of spirits increased their risk of dying by a third. But wine drinkers who consumed three to five Danish-sized glasses a day had a 60 per cent lower risk of dying from heart disease or stroke and a 50 per cent reduced risk of dying from any cause.

A Danish "glass", containing 12 grams of alcohol, is one and a half times a British unit, which is equivalent to half a pint of beer, a small glass of

wine or a single measure of spirits. Official British advice, which is under review by the Government, is that safe limits for drinking are 21 units a week for men and 14 for women, but the Danish findings suggest up to 50 units a week may be protective, if taken as wine.

A series of research studies in recent years has suggested that drinking moderate amounts of alcohol reduces the risk of death regardless of the type of drink, principally by cutting heart disease and strokes. The previous largest study in Europe, led by the epidemiologist Professor Sir Richard Doll, which looked at 12,000 British doctors for 13 years, reported last October that moderate drinkers, consuming up to 1½ pints of beer or three small glasses of wine a day, cut their risk of dying by one sixth. Sir Richard said the kind of drink was irrelevant. "It is the alcohol that is protective," The Danish

researchers, whose study is published in tomorrow's *British Medical Journal*, claim that they are the first to examine in detail the effects of different types of drink.

They say the results strongly suggest that there are other protective factors in wine, in addition to the alcohol, which are not present in beer or spirits. Likely candidates are antioxidants and substances called flavonoids in red wine.

Anti-oxidants, such as vitamin C, help prevent arteries clogging up with fatty deposits. Flavonoids, also present in tea, onions and grapes, prevent blood clots forming.

The researchers suggest increasing wine consumption could account for the decline in heart disease in the West. In Denmark deaths from heart disease have fallen 30 per cent in 15 years while wine consumption has almost doubled.

Leading article, page 21



Dry spell over: Tim Gover, below, and team-mates at the Flamingo Cricket Club, Upham, have received enough cash to end a 20-year drought

Lottery panel splashes out on sport

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT



THE National Lottery awarded nearly £18 million to 93 sports projects yesterday.

Bath University will get £2.66 million towards building a 50-metre swimming pool, but the awards panel has not forgotten smaller organisations. Flamingo Cricket Club has been given £6,000 to drill a hole in the Hampshire Downs to bring fresh water to the pavilion. The members of the 12-strong panel, who are sifting through 892

applications for funding, include Trevor Brooking, the former England footballer and Adrian Moorhouse, the 1988 Olympic breast-stroke gold medalist.

Bath has received the largest amount yet from the National Lottery for any sports project to help the university build a £4.2 million extension to its sports centre. The facilities will be used by the public. Ged Roddy, director of sports development at the university, said that the money would allow the hydrotherapy pool to be improved.

Bath University has pioneered sports scholarships in Britain. Its facilities include 92 acres of playing fields, an athletics track and lavish indoor provision. Mr Roddy said: "The new facilities will help retain students in Britain. We lose hundreds of promising athletes to American universities because of the support they get there."

Flamingo Cricket Club, in Upham, has had no running water at its ground for 20 years and members have had to bring water from home for teas. Tim Gover, the club's former captain, said: "It took us a long time to fill in the application but it was certainly worth it." The club had faced the loss of its licence.

Mother takes TV protest to Downing St

A MOTHER of two presented a petition signed by nearly 12,000 parents to 10 Downing Street yesterday in support of her campaign to turn today into "No TV Day". Mary Pettifor, 38, said she was protesting at "unacceptable levels" of violence and sex in children's programmes.

Mrs Pettifor, from Thame, Oxfordshire, who started her campaign in *The Universe*, the Roman Catholic newspaper, was worried that *Neighbours*, *Grange Hill* and *Byker Grove* covered issues such as homosexuality and drug abuse.

Colin Stagg put on probation

THE man acquitted last year of murdering Rachel Nickell was put on probation by magistrates yesterday for carrying an axe on Wimbledon Common.

Colin Stagg, 31, of Roehampton, south London, had admitted using threatening behaviour and possessing an offensive weapon during a fight on January 22. His fiancée, Diane Beddoes, 27, was given a six-month conditional discharge for possessing a Second World War cash. They said they carried the weapons because they feared that they would be attacked.



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'I quit because the Government is more interested in saving money. It's despicable'

Former coastguard claims cuts have left lives at risk

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A SENIOR coastguard has resigned after claiming that government cuts are stretching the service to breaking point and putting lives at risk on Britain's increasingly crowded coastline.

Jim Evans, a former Fleet Air Arm search and rescue veteran who joined HM Coastguard nearly three years ago, has prepared a 14-page report on the state of the service for Paul Channon, chairman of the House of Commons transport committee, which has been critical of government policy.

He warns that the safety of men working new oilfields to the west of Shetland could not be guaranteed. He says that coastguards, who monitor the VHF Channel 16 emergency frequency, could miss mayday calls by taking over the additional responsibility from British Telecom International of keeping radio watch on the 2182 KHz distress frequency. This is to be introduced as a cost-cutting measure on July 1.

After quitting the service in frustration, Mr Evans, 48, set sail from the Shetland Islands, where he was stationed, in his 55ft converted Danish trawler *Bilbo Baggins* to contemplate a new career as a publican. "I



Donaldson: report blamed

quit because the Government is more interested in saving money than saving lives," he said. "I think what they've done to the service is despicable. Lives are being put at risk. There's no doubt about that."

Mr Evans is among sympathisers keeping watch as Britain's coastguards anxiously await the results of a manpower review, following a £1.45 million "efficiency saving" ordered by the Government, which some fear could jeopardise safety around the

coast. The saving, 6.4 per cent of running costs over two years, was reluctantly accepted last year after the former transport secretary John MacGregor was warned by the chief coastguard that the service would be badly hit by his initial demand for a 20 per cent cut.

Mr Evans, from Bristol, who joined the coastguards as a watch officer at Lerwick, added: "I left with a lot of regrets, but it's a service run by a management who put financial restrictions first and I found I could no longer give my total commitment. Money has been invested in technology but not in manpower. You just can't do that. We are being undermanned, and that's not good for public morale."

Chris Harris, chief executive of the Coastguard Agency, established last year as an executive agency of the transport department, said that none of Britain's 21 rescue co-ordination centres, down from 27 in the past decade, would be axed. Efficiency savings would be made partly through more flexible staff arrangements as well as changes to information technology, maintenance, headquarters reorganisation, property, maintenance and competitive tendering.

Commander Derek Anco-



Jim Evans and his converted trawler. He claims coastguards are short-handed and could miss mayday calls

na, chief coastguard, said: "The staffing review is still going on but there are no plans for compulsory redundancies. In my trips around coastguard stations I have not found morale to be low and I am fortunate in having a very professional and dedicated band of coastguards." But as the summer season starts for the 480 full-time officers — down from 550 in a decade —

and the 3,500 auxiliaries who help to guard 10,500 miles of coastline, there are already concerns that the service is being stretched by additional responsibilities imposed by Lord Donaldson's 1994 report of the inquiry into the *Braer* disaster.

Over the past seven years the number of people assisted by coastguards has increased by 63 per cent to 17,500 last

year and incidents have risen by 61 per cent to 10,500. The rise is mainly due to the growing popularity of pleasure craft. The success rate remains high with 98 per cent of all incidents brought to a successful conclusion. The Coastguard Agency's *Business Plan 1995-96*, which speaks of "customers" rather than lives, admits the pressures for "efficiency" are bringing uncer-

tainty. One coastguard said: "Can you imagine it? Business plans? Customers? We are talking about an emergency service, not a company report for Tesco."

Dutchy Holland, 57, a senior watch officer at Great Yarmouth said: "Morale is burning along the bottom. We have been going through cuts for 10 years. There's no fat left to cut off."

Tourists push Ice Age fish towards extinction

BY NICK NUTTALL

TOURISM and anglers in the Lake District may be pushing some of Britain's rarest fish to the brink of extinction.

Scientists who have been studying the vendace and the schelly, Ice Age relics found almost exclusively in cold fresh-water lakes, say that the large numbers of visitors and lakeside developments are increasing pollution and causing oxygen losses in some of the key lakes.

The scientists have also detected the presence of ruffe, a perch-like fish used by pike anglers as live bait, which feeds on the eggs of the rare fish. The ruffe and roach, which has also been noted in key Lakeland waters, may compete for food with the young vendace and schelly.

The studies, to be published soon, have been carried out by the Institute of Freshwater Ecology in Windermere with funding from the National Rivers Authority and North West Water.

Little was previously known about the vendace and the schelly, which live in deep waters, but the new findings, made possible by advances in genetic research and eco-sounding equipment, have begun to reveal their secrets.

The findings might lead to a conservation strategy. Action could include a captive breeding programme, the introduction of at least the vendace into new reservoirs in northern Britain, tighter controls on live bait and the cleaning of gravel spawning beds.

The researchers, led by Dr Ian Winfield and a fish ecologist at the institute, have confirmed that the vendace, *Coregonus albula*, lives in just two waters, Bassenthwaite and Derwentwater. The schelly, *Coregonus lavaretus*, and sometimes known locally as the skelly, in Wales as the gwyniad, and in Scotland as the powan, was found in Brothers Water, Hawes Water, Red Tarn and Ullswater.

The scientists believe the pollution, known as eutrophication, has been leading to high levels of algae, which thrive on the nutrients. The algae sinks to the lake bottom where it uses up oxygen as it decomposes.

Dr Winfield said: "This can cause fish kills directly, especially the vendace which needs to avoid warm temperatures of 18C and above. They can't go in the surface waters because it is too warm and they can't go in the deep water because there is no oxygen, so that get sandwiched." Algae may also clog spawning grounds of the rare fish and be changing some Lakeland waters to favour roach.

Cheese eater may be prosecuted

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A MAN accused of eating condemned cheese on television may be prosecuted by environmental health officers. Clydesdale District Council, which obtained an order condemning £50,000 of Lanark Blue, says that unless it is told where it was obtained, they may prosecute.

Arthur Bell, chairman of the Tory Reform Group in Scotland, says he is being hounded by the council after his television appearance. He has accused officers of "listeria hysteria".

Humphrey Errington, who makes Lanark Blue on his farm near Dunsyre, has been involved in a lengthy court case with the council, which wants to destroy the cheese because it says it contains high levels of listeria.

Mr Bell, who runs Scotland Direct gourmet foods, had his factory kitchens inspected by council officials

three days after his television appearance. Kitchen staff were asked where the cheese had come from and Mr Bell wrote to the council to say it was legally obtained and not part of the condemned batch.

He received a letter from Bob Russell, the council's environmental health officer, asking for the batch number of the cheese and details of where it was obtained. Mr Russell wrote that failure to give information could constitute an offence under the Food Safety Act.

This week, council officials arrived at Mr Errington's farm with a refrigerated lorry to confiscate the cheese, which has been in freezers since the dispute began five months ago. However, Mr Errington refused them access to the cheese and they are seeking advice about obtaining a warrant to remove it forcibly.

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The really expensive ones go much higher. (Take a deep breath.)

Within the last year there have been TV commercials - naming no names - which cost £1.8 million, £1.2 million and £800,000.

It's baffling how any 60 seconds of celluloid can cost such vast sums when the BBC can make a whole hour of TV drama for a relatively meagre £400,000.

But the costs of television don't stop there. Once you've made the commercial, you still have to air it, and air time is costly.

To screen a 30 second commercial in front of the mass audience (25 million adults) just once - and once only - will cost the advertiser around £220,000 (£340,000 when you include production).

For a third less than that, the same audience could have been reached by full page advertisements in all national daily newspapers.

A press advertisement can be every bit as arresting as any TV commercial.

(Think of the RSPCA's pile of dead dogs.)

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If you want to read it again,

or check a figure we've quoted, this page will still be here an hour, a day, or a week later.

If you're seriously interested in what we've said, you might cut the page out and keep it for reference.

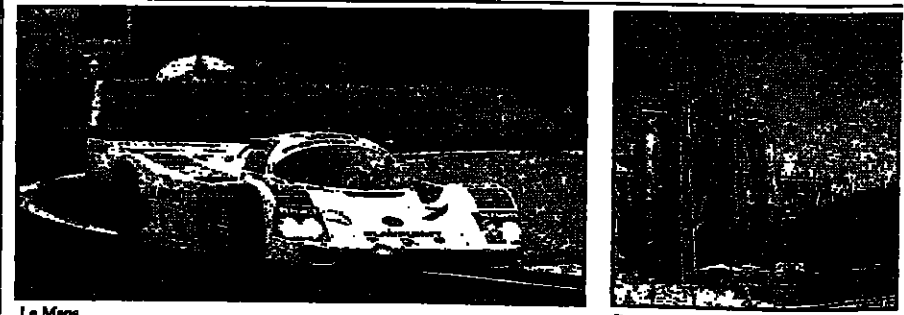
By contrast, every time the poor TV advertiser wants access to another 30 seconds of your attention, he has no alternative but to spend a further £220,000.

Not that a television commercial could convey a fraction of what we have discussed.
How much of this ad can you read out loud in 30 seconds?
Not a lot.
In actual fact, about as much as is on this television screen.

The moral of the story: To make the most of your advertising investment, do it in newspapers.

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American troop withdrawal caused alarm

Churchill's warning of Cold War was ignored

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

JUST four days before VE-Day was celebrated by millions of people, overjoyed but exhausted after six years of war, Winston Churchill sent a telegram to Harry Truman, the new American President, warning of a new war about to descend on Europe.

Churchill told Truman that the Russian occupation of the capitals of central Europe "constitutes an event in the history of Europe for which there is no parallel". He forecast decades of Russian domination. A copy of the telegram was sent to Anthony Eden, who was at an historic conference in San Francisco setting up the United Nations.

Churchill's telegram, which was followed by many more cabled warnings to Washington, was not well received by Truman. At a time when the big powers were trying to forge a new peaceful future for the world at San Francisco, he did not wish to alienate Stalin



Churchill: volte-face

and drive a wedge between America's allies. He also felt Churchill was exaggerating.

The first telegram to Truman on May 4, which said Poland would "sink into many other states into the vast zone of Russian-controlled Europe", was a remarkable volte-face by Churchill. In October 1944, he had produced what he called his

"naughty document" when he met Stalin in Moscow and made "back-of-an-envelope" provisions for spheres of influence in Europe. He was prepared then to do a deal with Stalin: what changed his mind so dramatically?

The historian John Charmley, of East Anglia University, said that what really worried Churchill was Roosevelt's announcement at the Yalta conference in February 1945 that American troops would withdraw from Europe within three years of the war ending. Churchill wanted the Americans to stay in Europe to stop the Russian occupying forces from sweeping forward, engulfing Poland. Churchill said that if that happened, it would be "one of the most melancholy events in history".

Some historians believe that Churchill's telegram to Truman began the process that helped to push the Americans into adopting a hard line with Stalin. But Dr Charmley said it was only much later that Truman came round to

Churchill's view, leading eventually in 1947 to the Truman doctrine, which offered economic and military aid to Greece, threatened with Communist insurrection, and Turkey, under pressure from Soviet expansion.

However, from May 1945 to March 1946, Truman's approach was to try to mediate between Britain and Russia. One of his concerns was that Churchill's hard line against Stalin might damage the hopes of the San Francisco conference for a safe future for a war-ravaged world.

Yet here was the elder statesman, the man whose leadership, courage and determination had helped so decisively to defeat Hitler, now warning of a new dark age ahead. The Iron Curtain was about to descend on Europe, dividing the continent for the next 40 years.

Martin Gilbert, page 18
Bernard Levin, Philip Howard and David, page 20
Letters, page 21



Viscount Montgomery and Professor Ludwig von Friedeburg recall the German surrender, signed by their fathers

Sons of adversaries meet at site of surrender

THE sons of the British and German commanders who signed the surrender agreement 50 years ago at Luneberg met in the same town yesterday.

Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, 66, who has worked to build Anglo-German relations, said there had been huge relief rather than a sense of

victory that the conflict was ending after so much suffering. Professor Ludwig von Friedeburg, son of Grand Admiral Hans von Friedeburg, said the German armed forces had also seen the capitulation as a liberation from war and as ending the grip of Nazism.

On May 3, 1945, von Friedeburg and

General Hans Kinzel turned up at Montgomery's HQ in the hope of surrendering all German forces in northern Europe to the British rather than the Russians. But Montgomery could accept only the surrender of troops facing his 21st Army Group. The surrender was signed the next day.

Elite veterans pay tribute to double VC

By MICHAEL EVANS

MEMBERS of an elite group of veterans will gather today to remember the courage of the only fighting soldier ever to win two Victoria Crosses.

The holders of the Victoria Cross and George Cross taking part in the VE-Day celebration parade will also attend a thanksgiving service at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London for Captain Charles Hazlitt Upham, the New Zealander who won the Victoria Cross in 1941 and again the following year. He died aged 86 in November last year.

Captain Upham won his first VC while serving in Crete with the Canterbury Regiment between May 22 and May 30, 1941. The *London Gazette* described his actions as "remarkable exploits, showing outstanding leadership, tactical skill and utter indifference to danger".

At Malme, while leading a forward platoon, he fought his way forward over 3,000 yards with little support, destroying numerous enemy posts. He attacked a machinegun post with his revolver and a hand grenade. In another incident he crawled to within 15 yards of a machinegun position and killed the crew with a grenade. While withdrawing, he helped wounded men to safety. When another company was isolated, the captain and a corporal

crawled 600 yards through enemy lines and brought back the company safely.

For the next two days Captain Upham and his men were continually shelled. He was blown over by a mortar and wounded with shrapnel. Later he was shot in the foot but carried on fighting.

His second VC came while serving in the Western Desert in 1942. During an attack on El Ruweisat Ridge he was wounded twice checking forward positions and single-handedly destroying a truckload of Germans.

He destroyed a German tank and several guns. Shot in the elbow, he continued to command during a counter-attack, before collapsing and being taken to a regimental aid post. After the wound had been dressed he returned to the line, where he and his men fought through a long day of artillery and mortar fire which left only six alive.

Although three men have won double VCs, the other two were medical officers who won their medals for rescuing wounded men under fire. There are 83 surviving members of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association. They normally meet every two years but the celebrations for VE-Day have provided an additional opportunity for a reunion.



The telegram strip saved by Eva Emmott in 1945

For sale: the telex announcing peace

By JOHN SHAW

THE telex message announcing the end of the war in Europe is being sold by a former Wren who received it in May 1945. The strip of paper, only a centimetre wide, has been kept by Eva Emmott, then a young teleprinter operator at Admiralty House, Whitehall.

The building was a communications centre for all three services and Mrs Emmott, 70, who lives in Bristol, said there was an extra buzz of activity when she went on duty at 11pm on May 7. "I was told they were expecting a signal from a station over there to say the end of war was imminent."

Sent in abbreviated telegraphese, sometimes with letters added, it also reveals the jubilation of the operator at the end of the war. The message reads: "I've got a sig coming in from GSN that Germany surrendered to Russia, America and Eng-

land at 0401 dis morning. OK tks a lot. That marvellous. 4Voh boy. Oh boy oh boy. Bice tks."

The remainder of the message, much of it in code, says the German high command surrendered all land, sea and air forces to the Allied Expeditionary Force. It goes on to advise that because there may be delay in orders reaching enemy troops, full defensive precautions should be taken.

The message says no release will be made to the press pending an announcement by the heads of government. It was made clear to staff that teleprinter traffic should be destroyed but Mrs Emmott admitted: "Alas, I did not carry out orders. It seemed such an historic thing and I kept it."

Her fragment of wartime history, estimated at £500, will be included in a sale of militaria at Bonhams in Knightsbridge on July 25.

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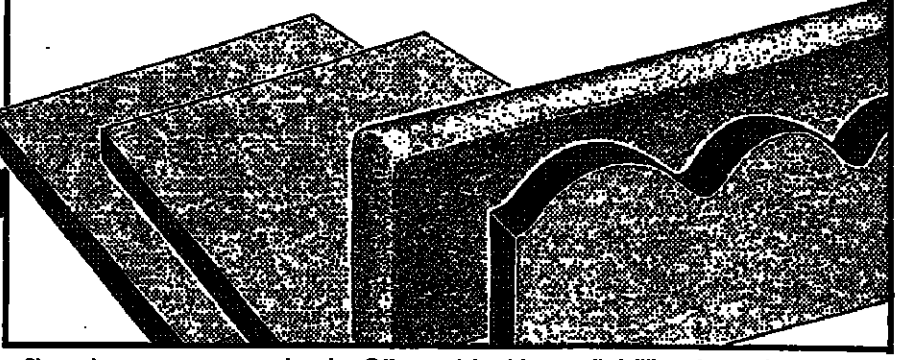
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Loopholes in banking law

Mafia 'launders cash in London'

FROM STEWART TENDLER IN MAASTRICHT

MAFIA money launderers are exploiting loopholes in the British banking system to move millions of pounds through London, two experts on organised crime said yesterday.

"One of the problems for the UK is the banking sector," said Luigi Palmieri, head of Interpol's Organised Crime Task Force. "It may be the laws should be more rigid."

Speaking at a European journalists' conference in Maastricht, Signor Palmieri said it was still too easy to transfer money in and out of London. Transactions by individuals might be scrutinised, but companies acting as fronts for organised crime could evade checks.

He said: "The problem is the laws allow organised crime to come into a country because there are loopholes. We are accomplices because there is no will by politicians to do anything about it."

In Germany wire-tapping

was still not allowed, while in France there was not enough control over property ownership and Austria had too much bank secrecy. He said: "Wherever you don't supervise funds, there you will find the Mafia."

Professor Luciano Violante, vice-president of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, and former president of the parliamentary anti-Mafia committee in Rome, said he also believed the British banking system had too many loopholes. There were other areas which suggested Mafia interest in Britain, including the fact that Italian right-wingers have hidden in London in the past and the right-wing gangs were often linked to the Mafia, he added.

The professor said that in Italy the Mafia "kill people; in your country, they invest." The conference was told that other European countries, including Austria, France and Germany, were also being

used by the Mafia and other organised crime gangs to invest or move funds. At the same time, Russian gangs were starting to move their cash to the West to invest in property, some of it in such countries as Switzerland.

In the past few months, Interpol had opened a worldwide data bank to concentrate on the threat of organised crime. It now holds 160,000 names as well as 90,000 aliases. Interpol had also launched five units concentrating on the threat of organised crime in eastern Europe, Africa, South America, Europe and money-laundering operations.

One of the specialities of the gangs is drugs and the conference was told that since 1985 drug seizures in Europe have increased five-fold. The latest figures show that last year in western Europe, police seized 10 tons of heroin, 71 tons of cannabis and 28 tons of cocaine.

Mongolia imprisons catapult Briton

BY MICHAEL BINTON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A BRITON whose daughter hurt a Mongolian with a catapult while the family were travelling by caravan through the country has been sentenced to three years in jail. The British Embassy in Ulan Bator has protested about the severity of the sentence and trial irregularities.

The daughter of David Grant, 53, was accused of causing dangerous bodily harm after a stone from a catapult hit a company director. Mr Grant was sentenced to three years' imprisonment, two of which are suspended. He has already spent nearly a year in custody.

The incident happened last year, south-west of Ulan Bator. Two Mongolians grabbed the family's horse, and one of Mr Grant's two daughters, aged 10 and 13, fired her catapult. Mr Grant is now detained pending determination of medical costs for the Mongolian's injuries.

Libby Parves, page 19



Ulrike Bidegard, the showjumper, arrives at a Brussels court to give evidence yesterday

'Forgive me', begs kidnapper

Brussels: A Swedish carpenter accused of kidnapping one of his country's top show-jumpers pleaded with his captive for forgiveness yesterday after she told a Belgian court of her ordeal.

Ulrike Bidegard, who was kidnapped in January 1993 from her home in Brussels, told the court how she was gagged, bound and strapped into a coffin-like box for five days before being rescued.

The accused, Lars Nilsson, 33, did not look up once during Ms Bidegard's evidence, but asked for forgiveness after she had described the kidnapping. She was then 28 years old. "I want to ask for forgiveness," he told the court. "It is a terrible thing that happened... I hope that she can put this terrible experience behind her."

Ms Bidegard, who married one of her rescuers and is now pregnant with her first child, said her captor demanded a ransom of £310,000. He gave her only two bananas and a few glasses of water, which she believed contained drugs. The case continues. (Reuter)

US-Russia rivalry for Azerbaijan oil wealth fuels strain

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN BAKU

OF ALL the points in dispute between America and Russia as the Moscow summit approaches, the one in which Washington has the biggest stake is the one most rarely mentioned: the oil fields of Azerbaijan, and Moscow's determination to control access to them.

How far Russia is prepared to go to enforce its control will help to determine the tenor of Russo-American relations in the coming decade. Moscow is determined to prevent Ankara from providing a route for Azerbaijani oil.

US officials have signalled their determination to achieve a Turkish route. This determination has been strengthened by the way in which Russia has held up a deal between the US Chevron Corporation and Kazakhstan. By controlling the pipelines, Russia has been able to force Kazakhstan to give Moscow a big share of its natural gas reserves.

In Azerbaijan, the contract with the Exxon Corporation means that American companies hold a 47.5 per cent stake in a deal worth £4.6 billion to exploit oilfields in the Caspian Sea. British Petroleum is the largest participant, with 17.5 per cent. There are four possible pipeline routes:

through Iran, through Armenia to Turkey and the Mediterranean, through Georgia to Turkey, or through Russia to the Black Sea.

The Iranian route has been dropped because of Washington's opposition. The most direct route would be via Armenia into Turkey, but the war over Nagorno-Karabakh is in the way.

Over the past year, the situation in Georgia has stabilised making it the third possible route, but if Moscow were to overthrow President Shevardnadze, things could deteriorate. Nevertheless, western oil executives and diplomats are increasingly looking towards a Georgian route. The Russian route to the port of Novorossiysk is the least economically viable.

If Moscow is determined either to have a Russian pipeline, or to block the development of the Azerbaijani field, it has two weapons. The first is diplomatic. Russia has said that Azerbaijan had no legal right to make the offshore deal, because the Caspian Sea is common property of all the states on its shore.

The other possibility would be to destroy the Government of President Aliyev, bringing in a more compliant regime.

Have a Say About Channel 5

The Independent Television Commission (ITC) has received four applications for the new Channel 5 licence, which was advertised in November 1994. The service must start by 1 January 1997 and the licence award, if made, is planned for no later than November 1995.

From now until 13 June, the ITC is inviting viewers to submit their comments, in writing, on the applications.

The published sections of the applications for the licence, together with the returning proposals for domestic equipment affected by the transmissions, will be available for inspection at all ITC offices and at selected libraries. Addresses of the libraries, in a special Channel 5 leaflet, and a brief summary of each application is available from the ITC on request.

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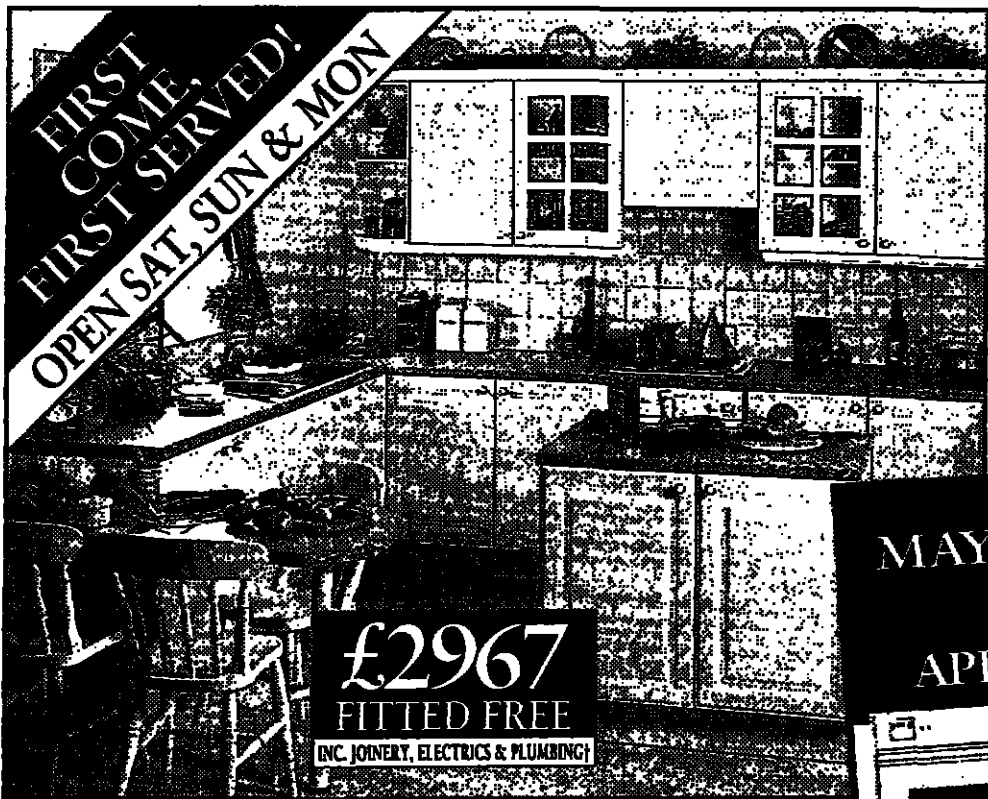
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مكتبة من الأصل

Croatian city adjusts to life in shadow of sudden death

THE mournful sirens wailed their alarm across the streets and the city ground to a halt. Trams stopped, boulevards emptied and bomb shelters filled as the citizens of Zagreb reacted yesterday to the realities of the past two days: the near 200 casualties caused by Croatian-Serb rocket strikes that have brought a new crisis to the Balkans.

Designed specifically as an anti-personnel weapon, the Orkan rockets fired against Zagreb are pure terror tactics by the Krajina Serbs. Each rocket's body carries a quantity of ball-shaped devices that in turn are packed with ballbearings, and can be altered to explode either on impact, or through a timing device scattering them for the greatest effect above ground.

Any of these devices found undetonated should be left to be dealt with by specialists. The Croats appear not to have realised this, and observers have been aghast to see Zagreb policemen carrying armfuls of unexploded ordnance to the boots of their cars.

The civilian reaction in Zagreb to the newest experience of war continued as a curious mixture of fear and novel excitement. Running along smooth contingency



Zagreb's reaction to the rocket threat has been remarkable for its speed. Within minutes of an air raid warning the streets were as deserted and silent as those of a ghost town. Anthony Loyd reports

plans, created three years ago during the country's bloody bid for independence from Yugoslavia, the reaction of the capital's population to the rocket threat has been remarkable for its speed. Within minutes of Wednesday's strike, the streets were so deserted and silent as to give the impression of a ghost town.

The situation seems to have become increasingly unstable in the wake of the Croats' successful recapture of the Serb-held territory of western Slavonia. President Tudjman has reacted to the retaliatory attacks upon his capital by threatening Serbs in the disputed Krajina region with an unspecified retaliation, while the four-point peace plan created by Yasushi Akashi, the United Nations special representative, to end the fighting appears to have stalled into a Balkans stand-off

brinkmanship, obstinacy, and gunfire. The plan had allowed Serb troops to leave their encircled territory carrying only their sidearms, and made provision for the collection of heavy weaponry under UN auspices, in addition, significantly, to allowing those Serbs who wished to do so to remain in their homes and reintegrate under Croat authority.

Few Krajina Serbs appeared to have chosen to remain in their homes, with more than two-thirds of the pocket's estimated 15,000 population having fled south to Banja Luka over the River Sava. Other UN sources reported widespread looting of Serbian houses in the region by victorious Croat troops.

However, as the general alert sounded in Zagreb for the third day, the UN reported that their plan had run into difficulties as

fighting continued in the Slavonia pocket.

Reports are of sporadic gunfire along the road south of Lipik," said Lieutenant-Colonel Walt Natynchik, a spokesman for the UN peace force in Croatia. "It's going on in a forested, hilly feature so it's quite hard to stop that kind of fighting without a large investment of UN troops."

Peter Galbraith, the US Ambassador to Croatia, said: "The Krajina Serb leadership that undertook these attacks is operating very much on its own and therefore very much at its own peril."

What of military aid from the Bosnian Serbs, promised by their leader Radovan Karadzic in an "all for one" declaration designed to link Serbian military interests? The Bosnian Serbs have problems of their own just containing a rejuvenated Bosnian Army, and the UN reports no movement of their troops toward the lines of their Krajina brothers.



Croatian militia and civilians follow the funeral procession yesterday of a policeman killed in action in the front-line village of Okucani

Latvians blow up Russian radar base

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

LATVIA yesterday blew up a giant Russian radar station south of Riga in an act of nationalist bravado that drew swift and angry condemnation from Moscow.

Before thousands of spectators, the 19-storey Skrunda early warning station, nicknamed "the monster" by locals, was destroyed in a controlled explosion paid for by a US government grant.

President Ulmanis said: "For Latvia it has always been a symbol of war, occupation and global confrontation."

Colonel General Viktor Smirnov, the Russian Air Defence Chief, accused Riga of orchestrating a political stunt. "It encourages nationalism, which does nothing to consolidate good neighbourly relations," he said.

Of greater concern than the radar station is the fate of about 2,000 former Russian servicemen and their families living in Latvia. The authorities are threatening to deport them as aliens.

Both sides wage war with aging array of weapons

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE renewed fighting in Croatia mirrors the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, with ancient Russian-made equipment pitted against equally aging weapon systems.

The Croatian army and the Serbs in the Krajina pocket are both fighting with the same unsophisticated weapons which are generations away in terms of firepower, range and accuracy from the precision-guided equipment in the hands of the armies of the West.

However, the emergence of the Orkan (hurricane) multiple rocket launcher has brought to the battlefield a more advanced weapon system that appears to include some sophisticated Western-made accessories to increase accuracy.

The Orkan, or M87, was manufactured jointly between the Iraqis and Yugoslavs in the 1980s. It was first put on show at an exhibition in 1983 in Iraq, where it was called the Ababel 50.

The Orkan used by the Krajina Serbs against Zagreb makes use of a camera, apparently built by a German company, which sits at the side of the launch system. After one trial missile is launched, the camera tracks its trajectory so that the next

batch of missiles can be guaranteed greater accuracy.

The Orkan uses rockets that can be fired individually or in ripples using an electronic trigger in the vehicle cab. Peter Felstead, a *Jane's Intelligence Review* editor, said: "If necessary, firing can also be initiated up to 50 metres (54 yards) from the vehicle using a remote control box attached to a cable."

The desert camouflaged Orkan used by the Krajina Serbs was probably built for the Iraqis but never made it to Baghdad because of the United Nations arms embargo. The Croatian and Bosnian government armies are also believed to have Orkans.

Other heavy weaponry in the hands of the Croats and Krajina Serbs include ancient Russian T55 and T34 tanks, old Russian Sagger anti-tank missiles, Yugoslav-made M56 105mm howitzers and Russian D30 122mm guns.

However, both the Croats and Krajina Serbs have effective aircraft and helicopters, including the Galeb ground attack plane. The Croats also have 15 Russian Mi8 and two Mi24 helicopters. The Krajina Serbs have one Mi8 and five French Gazelles.



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Steel chiefs face death in Peking graft purge

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE purge in Peking of allegedly corrupt officials claimed more victims yesterday when death sentences were imposed on two senior executives at the city's huge Shougang steel works, which are associated closely with Deng Xiaoping, the supreme leader.

The sentences, suspended for two years pending a show of "good attitude" by the prisoners, were imposed on a director of a shipping company associated with Shougang, for obtaining £47,500 in bribes, and a deputy manager of the steel works, for accepting bribes of about £21,000.

In February, Zhou Guannu, Shougang's chairman, resigned two days after the arrest for financial irregularities of his son, Zhou Beifang, a Shougang official. The younger Zhou was also a partner of Mr Deng's son, Zhifang, in a Hong Kong-based Shougang subsidiary. The elder Zhou is an old revolutionary comrade of Mr Deng.

The purge conducted by President Jiang Zemin has already resulted in the forced resignation of Chen Xitong, a Politburo member and Peking party chief; the arrest of his son, Chen Xiaoteng; the apparent suicide of Wang Baosen, one of the capital's deputy mayors; and the reported arrest of other Peking officials.

Although the accusations have been of financial crimes, all those involved so far are in some way connected to the 90-year-old Mr Deng. Shougang was a pet enterprise of his, and he elevated Mr Chen to the Politburo in 1991.

President Jiang was designated by Mr Deng in 1989 as the "core leader," but he is now asserting his authority over the Deng faction. Mr Jiang's stronghold is Shanghai, and the purge is the latest

in a traditional rivalry between the Communist networks in China's two leading cities.

Meanwhile, Peking has just released the names of 19 of China's least known political prisoners. In many cases they are serving sentences much longer than the country's more celebrated dissidents, for "counter-revolutionary crimes" or "openly criticising the authorities".

The names of the prisoners were obtained by John Kamm, a Hong Kong-based American businessman and ex-president of the Chamber of Commerce in the colony, who said yesterday: "The less the world knows about the prisoner, the likelier that his sentence will be harsh."

Mr Kamm, who has been campaigning for five years for better treatment for political prisoners, which often means obtaining admissions that they exist, obtained his most recent list in Peking from the Ministry of Justice. He had originally asked for information on 25 prisoners.

One of those identified is Zhao Fengping — China's longest-serving political prisoner, according to Mr Kamm — who was arrested 14 years ago and sentenced to life imprisonment for supporting the activists at Peking's Democracy Wall in 1978-1979.

Another prisoner is Jigme Sangpo, 68, a Tibetan who has received a sentence which would keep him in jail until 2011 "for shouting slogans advocating the independence of Tibet".

Mr Kamm also obtained a 1,900-page document detailing punishments for members of the hitherto-unknown China People's Party, which is said to have been active in Peking in 1991. Its leaders, some of them young law students, received sentences ranging from three to 12 years.



Rwandan children scuffle for corn seed and beans in the filth of the Kibeho refugee camp in the south-west of the country. Nearly 1,800 Hutus who are besieged by Tutsi troops in the camp where thousands of their tribesmen were slaughtered have agreed to go home, the Interior

Besieged Hutus 'agree to leave'

Ministry said yesterday. "In principle they all agreed to go home and we are taking them at their word," Seth Sendashonga, the Interior Minister, said. If all the Hutus leave, it will

mark a peaceful end to the stand-off in Kibeho which many feared would end in a bloodbath. Two senior army officers who commanded the operation to close Kibeho camp, where the

killings occurred two weeks ago, have been suspended pending an investigation. Major-General Paul Kagame, the Vice-President, said, adding: "We have thought it proper to send the two men away while we investigate the conduct of their brigades." (Reuters)

Delhi bans scavenging by city's poorest

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

RAGPICKERS who compete with vultures, crows and rats to make a living from rubbish have been banned by Delhi Corporation in a move striking at the city's poorest children.

There are probably 100,000 ragpickers in Delhi, all of them Untouchables. They prefer to be called Dalits, or "the oppressed". The corporation declared the women and child scavengers a health risk, saying their occupation spreads disease that could lead to another outbreak of plague, which caused panic in India last year.

Ragpickers make India one of the world's least wasteful

societies. Everything is reused: tin cans become utensils; paper, bottles and plastic containers are sold for recycling, and rotting vegetables are piled up to make compost for the gardens of the well-to-do.

By some estimates, ragpickers clear a quarter of Delhi's rubbish for recycling. The corporation regards them as a pest, strewing rubbish about and getting in the way of lorries unloading at tips. These seem spurious reasons for banning their trade. The real one may lie in a historical contempt for outcasts among the upper caste bureaucrats and politicians who run the city.

Rubbish collection in Delhi is sporadic, making the ragpicker vital to the city's health. It is a dangerous profession. Children are often burnt by chemicals or injured by glass and jagged metal. The police, corrupt almost to a man, extort money from ragpickers to allow them to sift through roadside waste. Dalit children are not accepted by caste Hindus as domestic servants, or as workers in restaurants and cafés — some of the most common jobs for poor children.

Ragpicking is a mainstay of India's street children, who fend for themselves from as young as five years. Last

Sunday, 200 street children mounted a protest in Delhi demanding protection from adults who exploit them. The demonstration, organised by Butterflies, a welfare organisation, drew attention to the arrival in India of a child sex industry because of clampdowns in Thailand, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

Without ragpicking, all that is now left for the children is shoe-shining, shoemaking (reserved for Untouchables because leather is considered foul), working as porters and garage hands, or entering the child sex trade, which, although concentrated in Goa, has now arrived in Delhi.

Hunt for bombers stalled

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE hunt for the Oklahoma City bombers has stalled in the wake of the latest dramatic but apparently groundless arrests, and the FBI is facing charges by civil liberties groups of being over-zealous.

A Justice Department official agreed that the investigation was "back at square one" after Wednesday's release of two prime suspects, Gary Land and Robert Jacks. They had been questioned for 18 hours. Even Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, admitted disappointment.

Investigators are still sifting through 14,000 tip-offs from the public and remain confident they will track down the conspirators, but they are asking whether the wanted man they have identified only as John Doe Two could have died in the April 19 explosion.

Authorities in Oklahoma City in the meantime were concluding their 16-day search for bodies in the rubble of the bombed building. About 150 bodies have been recovered, but more than 20 people are still missing.

WORLD SUMMARY

150 die in diamond town raid

Freetown: Rebels killed at least 150 people in an attack on the Sierra Leone diamond centre of Koidu. However, witnesses fleeing to the capital, Freetown, put the number nearer 200.

According to witnesses, about 50 Revolutionary United Front rebels entered Koidu and went on a killing spree. They also took weapons and ammunition left by fleeing government troops. But one witness said the "carnage" was the result of a counter-attack by military and civilian volunteers. (Reuters)

Iran currency at all-time low

Tehran: The Iranian rial sank to record lows amid fears that a planned American trade embargo against Tehran would send prices soaring. The US dollar, much in demand, rose to 5,350 rials. It has now gained 350 rials since Tuesday. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 21

Governor's maid 'illegal'

Washington: Pete Wilson, the Governor of California who has made illegal immigration the cornerstone of his expected bid for the Republican presidential nomination, is embroiled in controversy over the illegal hiring of a Mexican housemaid in the 1970s. He said his ex-wife hired her.

Vanity Fair job for Clinton aide

Washington: Dee Dee Myers, who left her job as White House press secretary four months ago, has been hired by Vanity Fair as its Washington editor (Tom Rhodes writes). The appointment of Ms Myers, who has no journalistic experience, was criticised by right-wing commentators.

2.5m 'smackers' for Lichtenstein

New York: Roy Lichtenstein's cartoon painting *Kiss II* sold for \$2.5 million (£1.56 million) at Christie's here, a high for the artist since the post-1980s downturn in the art market. The 1962 painting, an early example of the artist's comic book style, was sold to an anonymous bidder. (Reuters)

Bitter cold

Middlesex Borough, New Jersey: A judge jailed an ailing man aged 81 for two days for disorderly conduct because he refused to pay a \$42 (£26) fine for failing to shovel snow from his pavement. (Reuters)

Professor's close encounters alienate colleagues

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THEY came from outer space: grey aliens with large eyes and voracious libidos who abduct humans to other planets and have sex with them.

This is the stuff of America's whackier talk-show fringe, but it is also the substance of an academic book by a renowned Harvard psychiatry professor and Pulitzer Prize-winning author whose work has presented the univer-

sity with one of the more bizarre problems in its 359-year history.

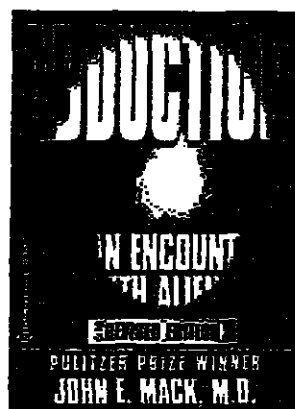
Harvard must now decide whether Dr John Mack, the author of *Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens*, is a crank with a taste for publicity or a genuinely inquisitive academic who has boldly gone where no scholar has gone before. A committee at Harvard Medical School will soon present the university dean with a report strongly criticising Dr Mack for violating accepted standards of scholarship. The

New York Times reported yesterday. But the case of Dr Mack's lecherous aliens has divided America's academic community and many say that his work, while highly unusual, involves sincere scientific inquiry in an important and neglected field.

Abduction details 13 case histories in which humans claim to have been kidnapped and seduced by space creatures. Take, for example, the experience of Ed, a middle-aged technician, who told Dr Mack of an ex-

tremely close encounter with a female being having "long, silvery hair with large black eyes without pupils or irises". The female alien seduced Ed in order to "create special babies", Dr Mack relates.

Fearing that Harvard's reputation is being compromised, the disciplinary committee is reported to have concluded that Dr Mack's scholarship is faulty, while forcefully asserting his right to explore any subject under the sun, or beyond it.



New Zealand to shut appeal route

FROM MICHAEL MUNRO IN WELLINGTON

NEW ZEALAND has taken another step towards republicanism with a government decision to abolish appeals to the Privy Council, New Zealand's final court of appeal since 1841.

The decision mirrors that of most Commonwealth countries and will have to be

confirmed by the single-chamber parliament, Paul East, the Attorney-General, said yesterday. Australia, Canada and India are among 33 countries that have stopped using the council as an appeal court. New Zealand is the largest of the remaining 16 still using it for such purposes.

After a November 1993 referendum supporting a switch to proportional representa-

tion, Jim Bolger, the Prime Minister, said that New Zealand's "British system of government" would inevitably end. The country would become a republic, dropping the honours system and making the country's Court of Appeal the highest judicial body.

Any decision to cut ties with the monarchy faces much resistance, however, and is unlikely before 2000.

Prehistoric pine cloned by Sydney scientists

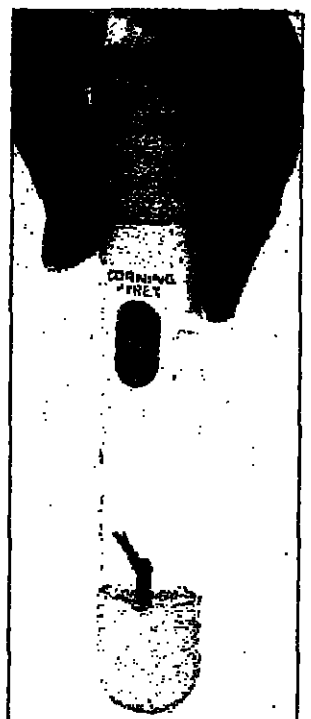
FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SYDNEY

SCIENTISTS have succeeded in cloning prehistoric pine trees that have survived undetected into modern times.

Like scientists in the film *Jurassic Park*, the Australian researchers have profits in mind as well as the preservation of the living fossil. Until their discovery in Wollemi National Park last August, the 39 Wollemi pines were thought to be extinct.

Once they grew throughout the world, but their closest related species died out in the Jurassic Period 190 million to 135 million years ago, and the Cretaceous Period, 140 million to 65 million years ago. "We've certainly got some small bits growing," said Don Blaxell, assistant director of living collections at the Royal Botanic Gardens, yesterday. "We don't have millions of them growing, so we can't flood the market." But that is the eventual hope of the horticulturalists.

The work is being carried



A shoot from a Wollemi pine in a test-tube

out under strict security in sterile conditions at the Mount Annan Botanic Garden in New South Wales. The first clones will be donated to botanical institutions, under licence. Earnings from the sales would benefit the Wollemi pines and other rare plants and wildlife.

Students injured in racial fighting

Johannesburg: About 30 students were injured during inter-racial clashes at a college near Johannesburg, sparking fears of a wave of unrest on South African campuses.

Political leaders have appealed for calm after running battles at the Vaal Triangle Technikon on Wednesday, when 300 white students confronted 500 demonstrating black students. The groups were armed with sticks, spades, whips and knives and fighting began when a small group of blacks stoned the whites. Several cars were damaged.

The blacks were demanding the resignation of Professor Pieter du Plessis, the college director, and his council, and the speeding up of changes on campuses. The whites were apparently angry about being prevented from attending classes earlier in the day.

The African National Congress yesterday accused the college of being racist and immune to change, but said that protests should be peaceful.

THE TIMES Your passport to Britain's treasures

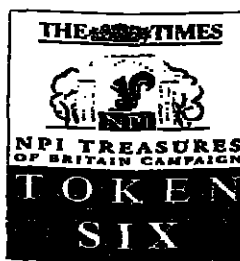


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From June to September, readers will be able to visit 100 historic sites in England, Scotland and Wales at bargain prices - just collect six tokens and send off for your Times/NPI Treasures of Britain Passport.

Production of the passport at participating sites entitles the holder to a range of concessions, including two tickets for the price of one at most properties and free entry to over 400 English Heritage properties on the weekend of June 3/4. With the passport you will receive a pocket guide to participating Historic Houses Association and English Heritage properties.

You could, for example, visit Harewood House, pictured above, in West Yorkshire. Its magnificent interior was created by Robert Adam, and there is a fine art collection. Details of the offer appeared in Weekend last Saturday with an application form. Further details will appear tomorrow.



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Jospin manages to narrow the gap but polls show 12 per cent of voters are still undecided

Chirac proposes referendum on Europe if elected

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

JACQUES CHIRAC caused jitters on financial markets yesterday by proposing a referendum on Europe if elected president. The people would be asked to ratify the outcome of the Intergovernmental Conference on the future of the Union, which starts next year, the Gaullist said.

Lionel Jospin, his Socialist rival, was expected to seize on M Chirac's offer during the last day of campaigning today to bolster his charge that the Gaullist has been "playing with the franc". The latest, unpublished opinion polls yesterday showed the gap between the candidates narrowing slightly to about six percentage points. A week ago, polls put M Chirac be-

tween eight and 10 points in the lead. About 12 per cent of voters are still undecided.

Almost two out of five voters picked anti-Maastricht crusaders in the first round, but only the most muted discord can be heard in the anthem of European devotion sung by M Chirac and M Jospin. Both diagnose a crisis of confidence and prescribe the medicine to be "more Europe". They proclaim devotion to a single currency and deeper and broader, but not federal, union, with France beside Germany in the vanguard. The profession is less convincing in the case of M Chirac, a former Eurosceptic whose campaign line groans with contradictions. Reluctance to

fan resentment towards Brussels has led the mainstream candidates to skirt sticky details in favour of consensual rhetoric. The best that M Jospin, a disciple of Jacques Delors, could manage in his television debate with M Chirac was a jab at an uneven record which cast doubt on the Gaullist's Euro-commitment.

For all his energetic campaigning, M Jospin has failed to follow up his first round success by breaching M Chirac's aura of elder statesmanship. The Socialist has managed to score a few blows by painting his rival as a lifelong conservative who hails from the heart of the ruling class demonised in his campaign.



Lionel Jospin and Jacques Chirac on the campaign trail. Both agree that the remedy for a "crisis of confidence" in Europe is "more Europe"

Where the rivals stand on key issues

Chirac: Maastricht was "a little step in the right direction" but accentuated the gulf between peoples and technocrats. Wants sovereign France in a "Europe of nations" that is also a deeper union — a contradiction touching on Gallic taboos. EU must be enlarged to 20 or 30 members, and not be a mere free-trade zone. "A real common foreign and security policy is vital." France must retain veto rights. More power for member parliaments and European Council; less for Brussels Commission and European Parliament. Wants full-time council president. Promises referendum to ratify 1996 Inter-governmental Conference decisions on future of union.

Jospin: As true heir to President Mitterrand, wants "vigorous advance" towards political union, but respects diversity of nations. Wants rapid enlargement while ensuring union is not "diluted". Seeks strong common policies. Wants to "clarify" who decides what, with stronger role for European Parliament. Disapproves of Brussels "bureaucracy". Accepts majority voting and necessity of "shared sovereignty". "The unanimity rule means paralysis." Thinks Jacques Delors went too far in deregulation, but likes his schemes for big spending on pan-European infrastructure.

Chirac: Believes 1999 is a realistic date for single currency. "The rendezvous of 1999 must be kept by France. It is a necessity for our country and for Europe." Struck this enthusiastic line after being singled in campaign for suggesting a referendum on EMU. Critics, including M Delors, still say his promises to refuel the economy fly in face of Maastricht criteria on curbing deficits. Chirac insists he can square this economic circle.

Jospin: Wants single currency "as soon as possible" by 1999 at latest. Will propose that EMU is combined with new world agreement on currency stability. Prompted market jitters with call for tax on cross-border capital flows. Wants EMU matched with extension of social protection to all Europe and job-making drive. Experts say job-creating plan for cutting working week and raising salaries contradicts EMU's deficit goals.

Chirac: Pays lip-service to centrality of Paris-Bonn axis. "France and Germany must form the backbone of future European Union." Vows to meet Helmut Kohl, German Chancellor, within days if elected. Suspected by Germans, however,

of lacking Euro-devotion, and though a fellow conservative, chemistry does not sizzle with Herr Kohl. Germany is priority but seeks strong tie with Britain, especially in defence. This has helped to make him John Major's favourite.

Jospin: Same as M Chirac but without the German suspicion. Bonn's favourite because his Euro-approach is closer to German thinking on federalism. Germans privately worry that he might call their bluff and actually require them to institute monetary union.

Chirac: Champions preserving Common Agriculture Policy in its old state and better deal for French farmers, his staunchest supporters. Rejects any Euro-enlargement that weakens the policy. Crusades against set-aside and says Europe could have got better terms from US. On world trade, wants much more aggressive EU, using tariffs to keep out cheap imports. "It would be inadmissible if Europe was left open to all-comers."

Jospin: All of the above, without the passion. Wants World Trade Organisation (formerly Gatt) to use tariffs to enforce minimum social standards on Third World exporters. Tax levies would be used for welfare in those countries.

Bid to be president spanned 30 years

BY CHARLES BREMNER

IF THE Elysée Palace were awarded to the hardest tryer, Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris and Gaullist chieftain, could sleep soundly this weekend in the knowledge that, after François Mitterrand, no one in recent history has fought so long to win the French presidency.

For M Chirac, 62, Sunday's election marks the climax of a single-minded drive for supreme office that has lasted three decades, two of them spent as a permanent presidential contender since he resigned as prime minister and founded the neo-Gaullist movement in 1976.

For the past two weeks, since he managed to glean only 20.8 per cent in the first round vote, M Chirac has been struggling to avoid undermining the latest in his history of changing personae. Since a youthful entry to government under General de Gaulle in the late 1960s, he has swung through contrasting phases, as a left-leaning nationalist, a technocratic reformer, an anti-European and a Thatcher-style free-marketier. The main constant in his previous periods, was a reputation for being impetuous.

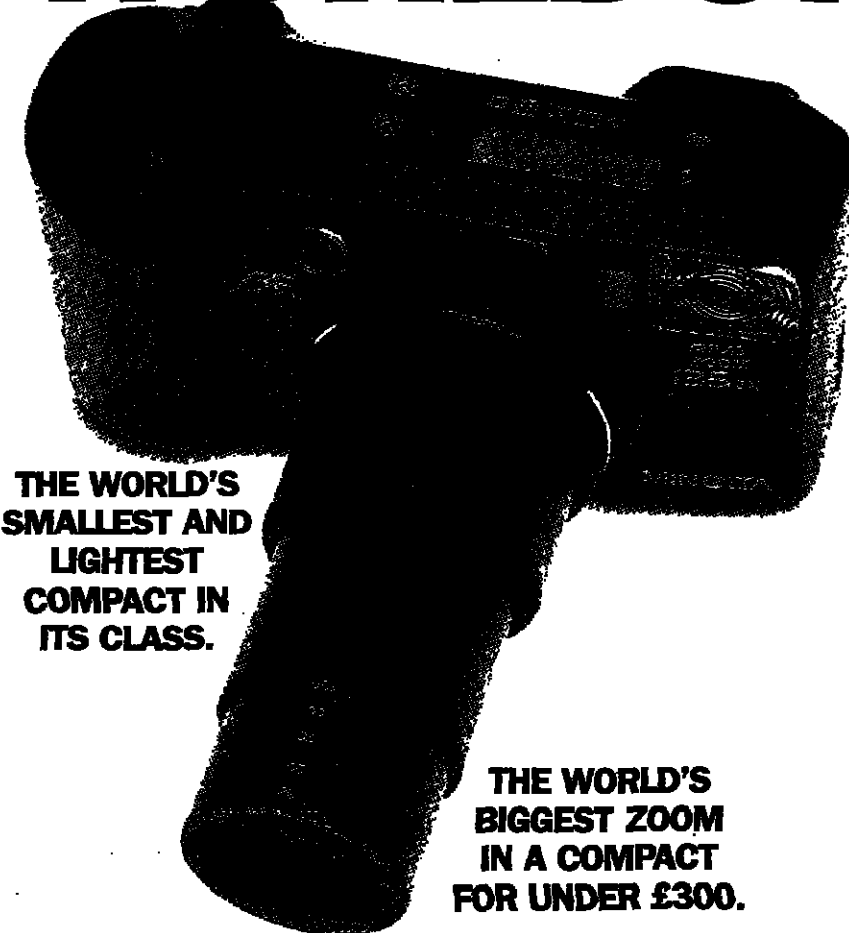
Forged in a solitary two-year campaign around the provinces, the "Nouveau Chirac" of 1995 is a serene elder statesman, a father-figure who is deeply in touch with the popular mood and has understood its disgust with the political elite. Of course I have changed," he says. "Experience, power, and the trials of life change a man."

Socialist apotheosis

IN A long presidential campaign marked by reversals of fortune, no surprise has matched the apotheosis of Lionel Jospin. In three hectic months, the grey apparition of the Mitterrand Administration has burst from the wilderness to pull off an act of political alchemy that has put him within reach of supreme office and hauled his party out of the electoral grave.

Even if, as the polls presage, M Jospin loses on Sunday, his campaign rebirth and top place in the first electoral round has installed him as uncontested leader of the opposition and likely Socialist front-runner for the next presidential race. The feat is no small thing for an introverted former civil servant, 57, who was all but ignored by his colleagues and whose only elected seat is on the county council of the Haute Garonne.

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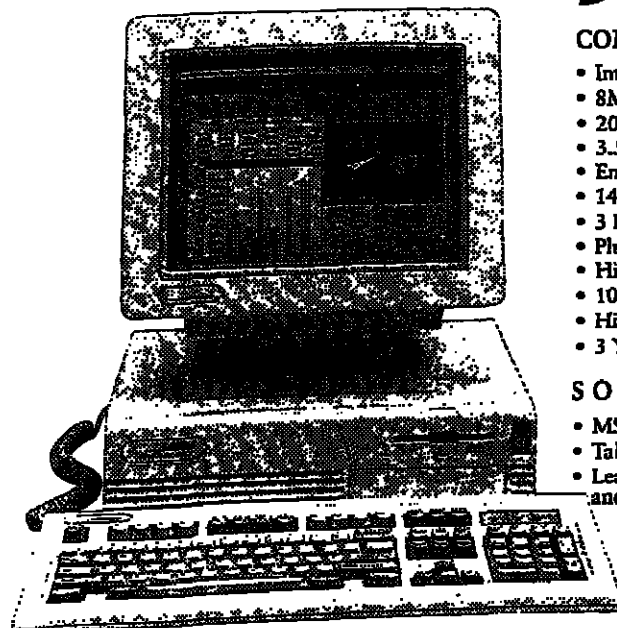
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Winston's watchdog

Julia Llewellyn Smith talks to biographer Martin Gilbert about his relationships with Prime Ministers, both living and dead, and his inability to throw anything away

Martin Gilbert is a testament to thoroughness. When Churchill's official biographer and the man many consider our leading historian decided to move, he hired an architect to build a Hampstead home convenient for a writer. He was presented with a gallery designed to be crammed with books, documents and hundreds of box files, crammed with every letter Gilbert has ever received and every newspaper clipping that has captured his attention. There is a 35ft by 4ft desk and access is via a staircase designed to dissuade three children. Even Gilbert's marriage is designed for ultra-efficiency: his wife, Susie, has been his historical helper for the past 20 years.

The length of this relationship dims in comparison with the 33 years Gilbert, 58, has spent with Winston. The son of a London jeweller, he was a graduate student at Oxford when Randolph Churchill recruited him to help to research his father's biography. When Randolph died in 1968, the mantle was passed to this dark, quiet, bumpy-nosed man, who agreed to be paid no royalties but a flat fee for every volume.

Since then, his wages ravaged by inflation, Gilbert has written more than ten million words on Churchill; by the time the companion notes to his six volumes of biography are completed, he will, he calculates on a paper napkin, have added three million more.

After all these years, does Gilbert still tingle at the prospect of a new Churchill letter, memo or laundry list? "Well," he says, almost coyly. "Yes, I do actually."

Churchill is definitely Gilbert's number one, but he has inspired a whole harem of secondary passions. There is the Second World War (five books, not including the two about the Holocaust); Jewish statehood (four books) and nine historical atlases. When we meet for tea in a Knightsbridge hotel, he has just finished a signing session at Harrods of his latest book, *The Day the War Ended*, a compilation of hundreds of personal accounts of events leading up to May 8, 1945.

Each subject feeds the others, yet Gilbert is adamant that he is not repeating himself. "Technically, I could now start on another book called *The Day the War Ended* and in a year I would have produced an equally accurate historical book which would be completely different," he says.

"If you take any historical event

— a Cabinet meeting, for example — you immediately have 15 different perspectives on it from everybody who was present. This has always struck me."

There are signs of expansion in the Gilbert empire. Earlier this year, he accompanied John Major to the Middle East as an adviser on Jewish affairs and last month he went to Washington to instruct the Prime Minister on the historical background to the "special relationship". In Downing Street, there were murmurs of a "court chronicler" being given special access to the Prime Minister with a view to rehabilitating him for posterity.

Reminded of this, Gilbert laughs shyly. "Reports of my Downing Street role are greatly exaggerated," he says. "But one day I would very much like to write an account of Major's premiership, particularly if I could do it in the way I did about Churchill. It would take a minimum of five years."

'Both Major and Churchill are masters of detail over a great range of subjects'

It must be the best news that the mangled Major has heard in months. Gilbert is surely, for a start, a friend? "Oh well," he says hesitantly. "Friendship's a very personal thing. I do admire him. I have met him a number of times..."

Friends or not, Gilbert is well known as a custodian of the status quo. Revisionists who dwell on Churchill's warmongering, racism or alcoholism get short shrift and so do those who refer to Major as grey or dull.

"No Prime Minister can expect to be loved in his lifetime, but there is an element of vindictiveness towards Major," he says, looking pained. "Yet you so often meet people who say 'I met the Prime Minister yesterday at some event and he's not at all what I expected; he was much more interesting and animated'."

"There was a biography of Bonar Law called *The Unknown Prime Minister* and I have often thought of that phrase in connection with Major. He is not known because the pressures of work keep him at his desk. He is not John Major PR limited, he is governing the country and now there is so much governing to be done."

"You know, there is an interesting Churchillian parallel: when his popularity was low, his wife arranged luncheons at Downing Street for groups of Tory MPs and I see from the press that Major is holding a series of lunches for constituency chairmen to get to know him. He doesn't have time to get out and about."

Does Gilbert see any other parallels? He considers the ques-



Martin Gilbert: "Reports of my Downing Street role are greatly exaggerated"

tion gravely. "The main one is this tremendous application. Both are masters of detail over a great range of subjects. I have always thought it a measure of Major's quality that he doesn't delegate."

Some would agree with this: others might consider that an inability to delegate is a failing. It is no coincidence that though Gilbert's own fans praise his meticulousness, his detractors complain that piling up facts, however diligently, is not a justifiable end in itself. This is not a man given to sweeping conclusions: his concern is with the whiffs of history, not the whys.

"Conclusions are there," he says softly. "But there's not much point in producing them if they are based on evidence which I have seen and

the public has not."

During the recent fracas over the Churchill papers, experts such as Ben Pimlott, Professor of Politics and Contemporary History at Birkbeck College, London, said there was no need to hold onto the archive, because it had all been disseminated into Gilbert's volumes. "Well, yes they have," says Gilbert. "But that doesn't mean that other people should be deprived of seeing original copies of these documents. I know they could look at photocopies, but it wouldn't be the same. Everything Churchillian should be kept in this country, it's the bone marrow of history."

Certainly, history is Gilbert's marrow. During a taxi ride, later, to the Cabinet War Rooms, each landmark sparks a memory of his personal place in the scheme of

things: the Hyde Park Hotel where he met Lord Beaverbrook, the tree on the Mall where he spent the night before the Coronation.

Yet his home is free of sentimental memorabilia. "I can't get bogged down, I would end up speaking with a defective 's' and getting pompous. I have a cast of Oscar Nemon's bust of Churchill at Windsor, but two weeks ago when I was taking a book from my shelves it fell and the head was dented. Twenty years ago, Churchill's constituency chairman, who made little mobile desks, offered me the choice between one of those and a cigar Churchill had never smoked. I chose the desk and I still use it."

In view of the use that desk has been put to, its historical worth should be ten times that of a decomposing cigar.

Dalya Alberge and 10cc cut a new rug

The mild men of rock return

When other pop groups were rearranging hotel rooms by trashing them, 10cc — the group hailed in the 1970s as "the new Beatles" — were busy repairing any hotel furniture and fittings that needed it. They were a hotelier's dream: if there was a bedroom door-handle that needed tightening or a shower that wasn't working properly, the boys from Stockport could not resist a little DIY.

When other groups were rehearsing at 3am and sleeping all day, 10cc were in the studio from 10.30am to 6.30pm, with a disciplined hour's break for lunch. While others were glorifying drugs, 10cc did no more than "experiment" with dope.

"Our music was so complex you had to be sober to be able to play it," explains Graham Gouldman, the band's guitarist-composer. "It would have been easy to have gone off the rails. I thought it was really stupid to be successful and then get totally 'out of it'. I like to be as conscious as possible. I wanted to remember it."

With his rugged features, Gouldman looks more like a pop manager than a pop singer. It was 10cc's "ordinariness" that set them apart from Gary Glitter and other stars with star-spangled hairdos and glittery gimmicks. 10cc wore denim. In fact the only time they hit the headlines with anything remotely controversial was when London Transport objected to posters of the 1978 album, *Bloody Tourists*.

Gouldman attributes this level-headedness to the support of his parents and to a northern distaste for pretentiousness. Most parents dread their children going into showbusiness. Gouldman Sr, who was in the Manchester rag trade, used to write some of his son's lyrics. He probably also recognised that there was no stopping him.

From the age of 11, says Gouldman, "I knew I was going to do it." Self-taught, he started playing in a band, and got himself sacked from a gentlemen's outfitters "for not concentrating". By the age of 22, he had written hits for The Yardbirds and Herman's Hermits.

It was by being level-headed, and hiding their talents as individuals behind the group, that 10cc survived the excesses of success. I danced to their music through the 1980s, yet I couldn't have named their members. Gouldman, Eric Stewart, Kevin Godley and Lol Creme were never household names.

But their records broke records. In 1975, *I'm Not In Love* was No 1 in almost every country in the world. It has become one of the most played hit-singles of all time — three million times.

for example, on the American airwaves.

The song, inspired by Eric Stewart's wife complaining that he rarely said "I love you", is being re-released in a new acoustic version. Although two of the original members, Creme and Godley, are pursuing other interests, Stewart and Gouldman are together again as 10cc, after almost a decade. There is an album in June, and a single this month. Paul McCartney and Tim Rice have co-written some of the material.



Gouldman and Stewart now...



...and as part of the old 10cc

Stewart, who was with the Mindbenders when McCartney was with the Beatles, has never lost touch with him. When, in 1978, Stewart had a serious car accident, in which he lost his left eye, McCartney was among those who encouraged him "to fight and go on". Stewart went on to guest on a couple of McCartney albums; and some McCartney chords, improvised on Stewart's synthesiser after a good Sunday lunch, form the backing-track to *Code of Silence* on the new album.

"It was one of those things," Gouldman says, "when you sit down and something happens." Whether that something can ever match *I'm Not In Love*, only time and the charts will tell.

It was an ordinary journey to work on a sunny morning until Sally Baker met a man wielding a baseball bat on a motorway slip road

Staring into the ugly face of road rage

I commute to work by car. It is a journey of some 40 miles, first on country lanes, then motorways, then city roads. Normally, if I keep my wits about me, it is not a particularly life-threatening trip. I have been driving for 25 years and I thought I had seen everything under the sun in the way of aggression, stupidity, negligence and arrogance on our roads.

This week, in the middle lane of my motorway stretch at 10am on a clear, sunny morning — the best day of the year so far — I spotted a boy racer coming up fast in my rear-view mirror, weaving balletically across all three lanes at about 90, under and overtaking. He carved me up on the inside with ease, and did the same to a chap in a red car ahead, the difference between us being that while I

briefly debated shaking a feeble fist at him, Mr Red gave him a blast of his headlights.

Then all three of us — boy racer in the lead, Mr Red behind, me third — pulled off the motorway onto a single-lane slip road. As we approached the roundabout, the boy racer slewed his car sideways to block our passage, flung open his door, jumped out, and advanced back up the road towards us. He was short and stocky, early twenties, neatly dressed. One hand held a baseball bat aloft, the other was beckoning to Mr Red and myself. But much more frightening than the baseball bat was his face. It was contorted with fury, suffused and ugly,

and the mouth was stretched open in a scream of anger. I have never seen such a face.

Mr Red and I had slammed on our brakes as we saw the baseball-player stop. Other cars were coming down the slip road behind me, cutting off any retreat. The boy racer was still advancing, still swinging the bat, still screaming. Suddenly I knew what I was looking at — this was "road rage", a phrase that has been given a certain airing in the media here for a trend imported from, naturally, America. Indeed, in December *The Times* carried an article on these pages by Giles Coren describing the trend and detailing several incidents on

British roads last year. I had dismissed it as at best sensationalism, at worst, scaremongering. But now I was staring it in its ugly face, and it was brandishing a

baseball bat. I felt a gut-wrenching physical fear that made me think I couldn't breathe. I swung the wheel hard, pulled past Mr Red, drove up on the grass bank

and round the blocking car, and made my escape — reciting the car number over and over until I could scribble it down on the back of my chequebook.

Much more frightening than the baseball bat was his face. It was contorted with fury

baseball bat. I felt a gut-wrenching physical fear that made me think I couldn't breathe. I swung the wheel hard, pulled past Mr Red, drove up on the grass bank

After that it all got much less interesting. I found a police station and reported the scene to a sanguine desk officer ("There's a lot of this about now, you're lucky he wasn't

carrying a gun"). Later, at the office, the police rang to say two other drivers had reported the baseball-bat wielding maniac, one of them Mr Red, so clearly he is still alive to tell the tale, although I do not know how the scene unfolded after I left it.

Now that I have calmed down, several aspects of the incident occur to me, all of them depressing. My daughter turns 17 in July and will soon be driving. Must she now learn, in addition to the road signs and overtaking laws, that every other road user could be a homicidal maniac waiting to be provoked into getting his axe out? (I say his with confidence — women

drivers displaying even mild aggression at the wheel are a rarity.)

Assuming this chap to be of standard sanity, how many other drivers have the capacity to go from normal driving frustration to weapon-wielding fury in the blink of an eye, at 10am on a sunny morning — a tiny handful, a sizeable number, all of us?

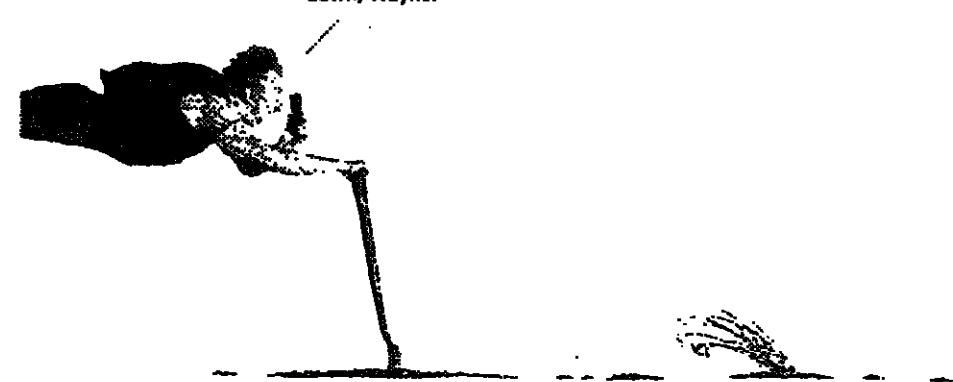
How many people now regularly carry some kind of weapon? My daughter tells me that at least two boys in her middle-class peer group carry baseball bats in their cars — plus a glove and ball for camouflage — "in case they get any trouble from

someone else". And a male friend who does a lot of driving and listened to my tale of woe said that if he thought others were carrying weapons and looking for trouble on the roads, he would consider getting "tooled up".

Human nature being what it is, I shall of course dine out on the story until my friends tire of it. I shall amuse them with some nonchalant asides ("I never knew how big a baseball bat was"), provoke some worthy debate on the state of British society, and look briefly like a heroine. But the truth is I am profoundly shaken. I love my country, could live in no other, have utmost faith in our civilised society, and all the detractors and moaners can go boil their heads. But just this week, I have a sensation of clinging to the wreckage.

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What will the party faithful tell us now?

Nicholas Budgen says any Tory leader faces new Euro-scepticism

Conservative councillors and ex-councillors — work very long hours for little reward. They sustain the Tory party through good times and bad. They are the true idealists and people of principle in politics. Neither life nor politics is fair, but they are treated particularly unfairly by the electorate. The results of yesterday's elections may be very hard on many of them.

But what of the party as a whole? There are some who discern future events clearly in the Tory party. They say: "There will be a panic." Others say: "Everyone will panic." Then others say there will be a general move to get rid of John Major. I suppose such predictions do at least have the virtue of courage. They are certainly less dishonest than the time-servers who say after the event that a single person or a single incident caused the result. I am thinking of the "ten more years for Thatcher" people and the "John Major won the election singlehandedly" gentry.

I have participated in all the parliamentary elections for the leadership since February 1974. They are not great occasions for the expression of pure principle, nor are they a dispassionate assessment of merit. There is an opportunity, and then a great number of different muddles, mistakes and accidents give an unexpected result. Who can tell what would have happened to Margaret Thatcher in 1974 if Keith Joseph had not made an unfortunate speech about the cycle of deprivation, the reception of which caused him to relinquish thoughts of the leadership? Would he have won without Airey Neave? Would Airey Neave have helped her if he had not crossed swords with Ted Heath? Would Airey have been so effective without his training in wartime? Or again, would Margaret Thatcher have lost if she had stayed in England during the leadership election that deposed her?

After each event, the victor is described by the spin-doctors as having conquered inevitably, on merit. It has never seemed to me quite like that. So the only thing that I can say is that today there are a lot of sad, disillusioned Tory councillors and ex-councillors. They are the core of the constituency associations.

It may be that until yesterday a Tory MP was calculating whether he dare ask for an election for the leadership. What would Councillor Bloggs, the chairman of his association, say if Marcus Fox, the chairman of the 1922 Committee, revealed that the MP was one of the names making up the 32 or 33 demanding a leadership election?

Today, Mr Bloggs's reaction may be different. However, there may now be a new factor in the calculations. There does seem to me (and I may well be biased) a new attitude on the Tory benches towards Europe. When a group of us were kicked out of the party in November, I thought we might survive and that the issue was worth the

fight and the risk. But with the benefit of hindsight, I see that the party had already become much more Euro-sceptical. Many Tory MPs voted for the Maastricht treaty only out of loyalty to the Government. The press became increasingly Euro-sceptical. Compare, for instance, its attitude towards the very important Single European Act of the mid 1980s with its attitude to the Maastricht treaty in the early 1990s.

And now the trend is very obvious in the Tory parliamentary party. Some indication of this was given by some amazingly large meetings at the Conservative Party conference in the autumn. Then, Norman Tebbit, Norman Lamont and Jimmy Goldsmith spoke to almost as many as the Prime Minister. Then, in December, the parliamentary party found that it was receiving many letters of support for the role of the rebels. Some colleagues were embarrassed. Others wanted us back.

Since we rejoined, I have been surprised by the warmth of the welcome. I have spent much time in the past fortnight asking colleagues about the extent to which opinion in the party has moved. I have no doubt that the centre of the party has moved to a much more openly Euro-sceptical position.

This welcome has somewhat surprised me. I was rather inclined to go back to the party in a polite and discreet manner. I would have put on one of my less scruffy suits, and gone in through the back door as a prelude to a short period of silence. But the decision of my fellow rebels was to march back in full uniform, with bayonets at the ready and with a round up the spout. Even that did not seem to cause much offence.

There is some academic evidence to show that by the summer of 1994, Tory MPs were already increasingly Euro-sceptical. An article in the current *Political Quarterly* shows the results of a survey last summer. The overall impression is of a Conservative Party more Euro-sceptical than its behaviour at Westminster would suggest. By the end of November, the Tory party was unconsciously waiting for an event which would enable it to show its new attitude towards the European Union.

I do not know what the outcome of today's turbulence will be. Nonetheless, the new mood is likely to be to the disadvantage of open and honest men like Ken Clarke, who has for 30 or more years identified himself with measures of European federalism such as Maastricht and the ERM. It may even be to the disadvantage of Mr Heseltine, though he has a reputation for being — how shall I put it? — malleable. Whoever tells you it is all cut and dried is lying. Just put the winner on the back and say, as you say to the winner of the Grand National: "You were lucky."

The author is MP for Wolverhampton South West.



THEIR POLLUTION ALERT *Paul Brooke*

Insulting their memory

The lottery should not take priority over commemoration of the Allied victory

How many of us, asked six months ago what anniversary May 8 celebrates, could immediately have given the answer? Most young people would have been unable to answer the question without looking it up in an encyclopaedia or such. But the older you are, the more likely it is that you would have got the answer.

Well, the original May 8 was a happy day, a very happy day, a very happy day indeed, though I must admit I had to look up the date myself. It was 50 years ago, VE-Day. Ahem. A silence falls. How many people actually know what that means? Oddly enough, VE-Day is imprinted for ever on my memory for a rather special reason. I was in Paris one May, and I saw a small group of British tourists wondering why bunches of flowers had been left in certain niches, all round the centre of the city. An old man came up to me, hobbling with a stick; he had medals on his chest. He turned contempt to the gawkers, then turned to me. I shrugged as the tourists moved on: I offered him my hand, and he nodded and took it. He spat on the pavement and then spoke three words, words I have never forgotten: "On oublie vite."

It was true, and I would never wish to stir his shade. Yet time takes all away; only a few weeks ago I was saying that young people, one day, will wonder what the Holocaust was, and when told what it was, will shrug, and mentally classify it as they would the dissolution of the monasteries — something far in the past and nothing to do with them.

And so it is with "Victory in Europe Day", which was the day, as Churchill reported to the nation, when "at 2.41 am, at General Eisenhower's headquarters, General Jodi, the representative of the German High Command, and Grand Admiral Dönitz, the designated head of the German State, signed the act of unconditional surrender of all German land, sea and air forces in Europe to the Allied Expeditionary Force, and simultaneously to the Soviet High Command". (There was still "VJ-Day" to come, but I leave you to work that one out yourselves.)

Now, what I am going to say will at first seem a drastic change of subject; if you will be patient, though, all will be made clear.

I take it that there is no Eskimo in

Britain, sealed for a year in an igloo for a bet; if not, I can safely say that every citizen knows about the lottery. Whether you like the idea of a lottery and spend substantial sums of money to try your luck on it, or whether you look on at the silly people who think they are going to walk away with millions of pounds, or whether you deeply disapprove of lotteries altogether and are waiting only for the fire and brimstone that must inevitably follow, or whether you are hard of hearing, and think that you are going to make a fortune from pottery, and thus sit up half the night trying to

Bernard Levin

the way the lottery was set up. In plain English it was quite scandalous: a serious and fully competent company, Branson's Virgin, stated plainly that it would not take any profit at all from the lottery. Nevertheless, the selectors saw fit to give it to Camelot, which is no doubt making a unique profit.

I do not know how long Camelot's time runs, but I hope it will not be more than a year or two; by the findings so far, though a huge number of people watch the National Lottery, four-fifths don't enjoy watching it. I am not at all surprised; the man who comes shuffling into the frame looking like an overweight tramp, together with that nice but equally dowdy woman, are so uninteresting that we might as well go to bed and see if our numbers have come up when we wake. Now, however, we discover a huge flood of crooks misusing the scratch cards (Camelot didn't even have the foresight to see what would happen). And on top of all that Camelot has had the impudence to threaten with the law the delightful young man who parodied the boring, pompous Camelot people with his amusing T-shirt.

But I have a purpose to reveal; it manifests concern the lottery, indeed, the lottery is the heart of what I am going to say. And what I am going to say should — but unfortunately will not — make us hang our heads in shame. Not the shame of football hooligans, not the shame of our Government, not the shame of permanent sleaze, but the shame of almost a thousand years, years defiled in an instant.

You can read it in the few words of a headline, which said "Queen's VE-Day speech timed to avoid lottery draw". And it means what it says, or actually, it means a great deal more. You see, I have come back to the discussion of VE-Day with which I started, and I bring with me much more than those initials. For on May 6 this year, there is to be a

great banquet at London's Guildhall, which no fewer than fifty heads of state will attend, with our Queen proudly and rightly at the top of the table, and of course this glittering array will be televised. These 50 heads will have come together to rejoice and sing the praises of God, those praises of God that said we, after all, were not to be enslaved to evil for ever, in the form of Nazism. And let us be not. VE-Day, 50 years ago, proclaimed the free peoples of Europe free again, and those initials — VE — saw that they were.

And now, only a few days away, those letters will stand for much more than initials, and the much more consists of telling those 50 visitors that the time of the speeches at the grand banquet has been substantially changed because if it is not changed it might get in the way of the announcement of the lottery draw.

Please stop for a moment and think about what that means. Fifty heads of state — imagine such a number at any other time in all our history or indeed anybody else's — and as the day comes closer, and the ticklish

matter of the placements looms and is solved, and so is the problem of the number of vegetarians, and so is every other problem, and those who have sweated to get everything right and have succeeded feel proud of themselves, and so they should. And then, one of those asks another why the timing for the banquet has been changed; and one, more knowledgeable, says that it is because if the banquet had gone on at the original time it might have interfered with the announcement of the numbers of the lottery. And never mind the insult to all the heads of state, what about the insult to the millions who died?

It gets worse. There are the creepy-crawlies infesting the Royal Family and destroying it, piece by piece. Here, for instance, is one creepy-crawly: "It's quite normal for the Queen to make a speech at the beginning of a dinner." Here's another, even more grubby. "Pre-dinner speeches are more convenient because they can be made at a fixed time, whereas after-dinner speeches are often affected by the tendency for meals to drag on beyond their scheduled finishing time."

Those creepies were instantly shot down by my old friend Ivor Spencer, Life President of the Guild of Professional Toastmasters, who said: "I have officiated at lunches and dinners where the speeches have been given before the meal and, in my view, it is never a success. After the meal, people are more relaxed and ready to enjoy the speeches. When they have to listen to speeches before the meal they tend to be fidgety."

But that is not what I am complaining about. Nor am I complaining about the Palace creepy-crawlies. None of that matters at all, except perhaps for what Ivor Spencer speaks of; after all, the changed timing was given many weeks ago, so nobody is going to be inconvenienced (there are to be no fewer than 16 members of the Royal Family present) and nobody is going to make a fuss about it. But it is the reason for the change that makes me seew.

Has a member of the Royal Family died? Perish the thought. An abdication? Don't be silly. A revolution? Oh, shut up. But the draw for the National Lottery takes pride of place — over the entire Royal Family and 50 heads of state, and few shall think it mad, and fewer still disgusting. But I think it is both.

Philip Howard



The poetry of the Second World War is finally winning acclaim

Two principal ingredients for the mystery of poetry are war and love. And of the two, the older is war. Before man learnt to write, the first oral poet was the tribal ballad-maker. Since the first literature in Europe is the epic and the epiphany, the probability is that the first poet sang of blood and battles in order to fire the bleeding spirit of the lads, and console the survivors and the widows and orphans. And it is still impossible to read the deeds and deaths of those archaic heroes 30 centuries ago without the hair at the nape of the neck bristling and the eyes watering.

The last war may not have inspired many war poets who are yet as well recognised as those of the 1914-18 war. Almost all the poets of the First World War came from the educated classes. But 1939-45 was the first people's war in which Everywoman was allowed a voice. There were many more poets and they came from a much wider cohort. They were better educated and could say something more interesting than tribal marching songs such as "Hitler — has only got one ball; Goebbels has two — but very small..."

Love poems are usually and preferably written by those who have been in love. He jests at scars that never felt a wound. Until this century, battle poems were seldom written by those who had been in battle. Horace commanded a platoon, but threw away his shield and ran at his first serious battle. The only great general who wrote poetry was Montrose, unless you count Sir Walter Raleigh.

J. Caesar wrote brilliant press releases. Samuel Coleridge was a great though rather an odd poet, but he must have been a very odd trooper of Dragoons. Edgar Allan Poe enlisted in the United States Army, and after two years in the ranks went to West Point, whence he was promptly dismissed.

But fifty-plus years ago, everybody wrote poetry. War poetry became a popular activity in the intervals of tedium broken by flashes of terror and horror. The Imperial War Museum has collected more than 14,000 manuscripts of verses, written by all services, classes, conditions and races of men and women on active service in 1939-45.

The Salamander Oasis Trust is about to publish 1,000 poems of the Second World War. Many have the time-machine immediacy of a grainy photograph. Most speak not of glory but of compassion. Some have the stoical simplicity of the earliest war poetry in Europe.

Write on the stones no words of sadness — Only the gladness due. That we, who asked the most of living, Knew how to give it too.

And there are such previously unknown delights of the old genre as the A.T. learning Morse ("A cold, cold room with cold, cold girls", the Highlander at El Alamein in Gaelic ("But if I had here / One chance to get at the White Well / I wouldn't leave her until she was dry / Though there are gallons upon gallons within her"), and the Australian commander of a corvette on the Jervis Bay ("A glimmering host the stars came out across the heaving deep, / And they shone bright over the good shepherd of sheep").

The world earthquake that led up to VE-Day turned the British into a nation of poets, without the stock paths or stiff upper lips of previous generations. Here is a previously unpublished war sonnet by Peter Vereker, just appointed as our next Ambassador to the OECD in Paris, exhibiting some of the traditional Spartan simplicities of war poetry in the Niagara of slush about VE-Day:

The last great war was fifty years ago. Another only half as long before. These favoured generations cannot know What cold forebodings in the deep heart's core Assailed our fathers as with high resolve And casual jests they marched away to fight. At sea, on land, or in the sky above. So we their children might live in the light And graciousness of freedom. So we have, And so the child of Britain always will. As long as in these rich soft days we save The solid essence of their spirit still. And celebrate the choicest gift they gave: A century of children of the brave.

In the mouth

AS IF John Major hadn't enough troubles today, he must also answer awkward questions about the state of his horse. To date, this animal — with which our Prime Minister clearly feels no natural empathy — has caused nothing but problems.

The extremely high-strung Akhal-Teke named Maksar was given to Major for his 50th birthday two years ago by the President of Turkmenistan, Saparmurat Niyazov. The President, currently en route to Britain for VE-Day events, understandably wants reassurances about the stallion, especially since the French temporarily "lost" their gift horse, while the Swedes killed three similarly bred horses which were recently presented to them.

So where is the horse? The Household Cavalry rejected it as "too small", and Knightsbridge Barracks did not want to know.

"I can't imagine John Major on a horse," says an army press officer (whom, for his career's sake, I shall forbear to name).

Finally No 10 confided: "We're not sure, but we think it's gone to Melton Mowbray." No, not to fill meat pies, but to the Royal Army

Veterinary Corps centre, where Major David White is assiduously wielding the curry comb.

"Physically he's absolutely fine," says the major. "He has been backed, so he can be ridden and can jump, and is perfectly well."

But the vets, it is whispered, want to castrate Maksar to make him easier to control. The President is not to be told.



"You spoil that dog"

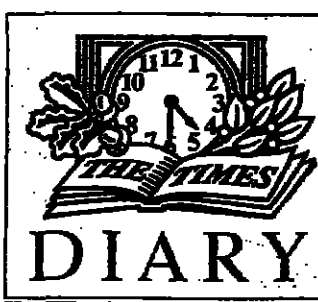
• The procession of carriages taking guests to Saturday's VE-Day banquet posed a problem for Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks, because he is not allowed to travel by horse on the Jewish Sabbath. Happily, a solution has been found. Sacks will stroll from the Savoy to London's Guildhall, just as a former Chief Rabbi, Sir Israel Brodie, did to the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill, for the same reason.

Long silence

JULIAN BREAM, the classical guitarist, is a cricket nut. But, because his fingers are faster on the frets than his feet are at getting to the pitch of the ball, he has only ever played village cricket. Now, however, at the age of 61, he is to play at Lords.

For the first time, the MCC has agreed that the hallowed Long Room, where anything above a low murmur or genteel applause, will reverberate to some of Bream's strumming, when he gives a concert there in October.

"I've no idea what the acoustics are like, but I'm sure they're pretty good," smiles Bream. "It will be a mixed programme, but nothing too loud." And although he didn't say much about his record at the crease, he did explain the precau-



tions he took to protect his musical hands: "I used massively padded gloves to protect my fingers, almost like boxing gloves."

Very liberal

POLLING DAY was lively in the leafy West Country parish of Pat-cway, near Bristol. A Lib Dem candidate thought the time had come to announce that, until ten years ago, she was a man. Leona Simpson, 66, who worked as an RAF technician for 25 years as Leonard Simpson, bravely declared: "I have nothing to be ashamed of."

Turning to a local reporter, she ordered: "You should be standing to attention with your feet together and your arms down your seams!" Deputy chairman of Northavon Tories, Martyn Radnedge, could not resist scoring a political point:

"This epitomises the Lib Dems," he puffed. "It's one thing today and another thing tomorrow."

Witch report

TO HELP to prepare for an exotic-sounding show about a murderous coven of witches, Ann Marcuson spent time at a Manchester maternity ward to observe childbirth at close quarters. At the first night of *Sabbat* last night, at London's Tristan Bates Theatre, the audience were treated to gory and fantastic witchcraft, 17th-century style, and a traumatic birth scene.

"My father is a surgeon, so I went to watch women in labour and then giving birth," cringes Ann. "It was very useful for getting into the part."

Greek epic

REHEARSALS started yesterday in an Italian theatre of a new ballet immortalising the dramatic saga of the Onassis family. It is created by Derek Deane, artistic director of the English National Ballet, for this summer's Viceria Festival.

"His brief was to create a ballet based on the theme of Greek tragedy," says Richard Shaw, director of public affairs. "But why look back to antiquity when there is an



Labour of love: Marcuson

obvious modern Greek tragedy to draw inspiration from?" The cast of ten includes the characters Maria Callas, Jackie and John Kennedy and Aristotle Onassis himself. But the ballet might realistically have included others, such as Lord Harlech, a former British Ambassador to Washington, who once proposed to Jackie. After she rejected him and married Onassis, Harlech married Pamela Lady Harlech, who now chairs the ballet company. "Lady Harlech will not be represented in the ballet," says Shaw.

P.H.S

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Chemical industry tells Tories to end Europe squabbles

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S chemical industry has warned the Government of its increasing concern about rows within the Conservative Party over Europe, which it says are beginning to affect international chemical companies' decisions about whether to invest in the UK.

Though chemical industry leaders yesterday forecast the first investment rise in Britain since 1990, the clash between the industry and the Government over Europe is one of the

starkest protests yet made by business over Tory divisions on the issue.

Chemical companies are increasingly operated at a European level, and in a letter to the Prime Minister, the industry makes clear it is "becoming increasingly concerned about the tone of the public debate on Europe and the economic turbulence this is causing".

John Fraser, president of the Chemical Industries Association (CIA) and chairman of Ciba UK, tells Mr Major: "The apparent vacillation in determining public policy is beginning to have practical implications for international chemical companies in their appraisal of the UK with regard to... new investment."

Calling for "coherent" public policy, Mr Fraser says that "an unqualified commitment on the part of your Government to playing an active and constructive role within the European Union" is important to the industry's success in Europe.

While he accepts that a decision on a single currency may well be best left to an "appropriate" time, he says "there must be no room for doubt in the minds of potential partners and investors" that Britain will remain a committed member of the EU.

CIA leaders are angry that they received a reply not from

the Prime Minister's office, but from the Department of Trade and Industry, where the letter was forwarded.

Michael Heseltine, the pro-European President of the Board of Trade, accepts in reply that there is a "healthy" debate within the Government and in other member states on the EU's future, and says: "I agree that the tone of the debate has added little of substance to the understanding of the issues."

The industry's concern about Europe comes as it announced for the first time in four years a planned increase in capital spending. According to the CIA's 30th annual investment intentions survey, UK chemical companies plan to spend £2,065 million on plant and equipment this year — a 6.2 per cent rise following a fall in spending of about the same proportion in 1994.

The planned investment spend reflects the improved economic climate, the CIA said, though companies still intended to keep a tight rein on spending to avoid overcapacity in any subsequent downturn.

The pattern of capital spending over the next two years is expected to shift northwards, away from the South East and East Anglia, reflecting the rising share of spending on basic chemicals.

N Brown cuts a dash



Jim Martin is looking for a good fit for the group to buy

ACQUISITIONS are on the agenda at N Brown, the Manchester mail order group, which yesterday revealed it is managing to avoid the malaise suffered by its high street rivals (Sarah Bagnall writes).

Jim Martin, chief executive, said: "We are actively looking for acquisitions. We are in talks but they are not serious. Any purchase would fit the group's existing product range, the bulk of which is clothing for the over-30s."

He said that the group is also expanding its range to include branded sportswear and widening its range of electrical and household goods.

The group, which recently acquired Sander & Kay, the menswear catalogue business, saw pre-tax profits leap 17 per cent to a record £26.5 million in the year to February 25. An increase in the number of buyers and a rise in the average spending helped lift sales from £186.8 million to £208.2 million.

Of the data base of 10 million people, 1.5 million bought from the group's catalogues during the year. The average spending of the buyers rose £10 to £130. The final dividend of 3.45p makes a 4.8p total. The dividend, due July 28, is being paid out of earnings of 12.32p (10.53p) a share. The shares fell 1p to 234p.

Sir David Alliance, chairman, said: "We continue to manage the business on the assumption that the long-awaited consumer recovery will not materialise in the short term. However, sales in the current financial year have made an encouraging start and I am confident that we will make further progress this year."

FCC sets deadline on Fox ownership

THE Federal Communications Commission in Washington yesterday ruled that The News Corporation, the ultimate owner of *The Times* and whose chairman and chief executive is Rupert Murdoch, has violated foreign ownership rules because it holds more than 25 per cent of the equity capital of the Fox TV network.

However, James Quello, commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, argued that Fox should not be forced to divest its ownership to bring it below the 25 per cent foreign ownership limit because "the record unequivocally shows that Fox is operating in the public interest". He has recommended that Fox be granted a waiver. The Federal Communications Commission has given the network, the fourth largest in the country, 45 days to demonstrate that it would be in the public interest to allow its foreign ownership to exceed the limit. Mr Murdoch said that he would take the Federal Communications Commission up on its invitation and resubmit the public interest argument. "I guess the bottom line is we are very happy," he said.

Dow Corning ahead

DOW CORNING CORPORATION reported first-quarter earnings 33 per cent up at \$49.5 million yesterday but said it may seek Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection as it tries to settle costly litigation over its silicone breast implants. No decision has been made and Chapter 11 (voluntary bankruptcy) protection is one of "various alternatives" being considered, said John Churchfield, chief financial officer for the joint venture between Dow Chemical Co. and Corning Inc. Mr Churchfield said Dow Corning has been dissatisfied with the lack of progress toward resolving lawsuits outside a \$4.25 billion settlement to be paid by several manufacturers. The company also is unhappy with the pace of negotiations for reimbursement by some of its insurance companies, he said.

Bellway bucks trend

BELLWAY, the housebuilder, defied difficult market conditions to earn record half-year profits of £13.8 million in the six months to January 31, against £10 million. Investors will receive an interim dividend of 2.45p, up from 2.2p on earnings per share increased from 5.9p to 8.5p. The average selling price of the group's homes was £6,000 higher at £71,000. Turnover during the six months to the end of January jumped by 41 per cent to £113 million as it sold 1,555 homes, 28 per cent more than previously, Kenneth Bell, the chairman, said. "The company remains optimistic about the prospects for the current year."

Claremont confident

CLAREMONT GARMENTS, the Peterlee clothes designer and manufacturer, is upbeat about current trading and prospects. Peter Wiegand, chairman, told yesterday's annual meeting that sales in all parts of the group continued to be extremely encouraging and significantly ahead of last year. "Order books for the remainder of spring and for the autumn season show continuing strong growth, and the financial results in the first quarter are in line with our targets," he said. Performance in 1995 to date "remains consistent with achieving our objective of continuing, strong sustained organic growth," he added. The shares rose 9p to 322p.

US to scrap GDP gauge

AMERICA is to scrap the way it measures the pulse of the economy in favour of a radically new yardstick. It is the first step in the largest overhaul of US economic data in nearly four decades. The new measure of gross domestic product — the output of goods and services inside US borders — will show the economy growing more slowly in recent years. The gauge, known as the "chain-type annual weights" GDP measure, captures the impact of price changes on growth. As part of an effort to improve its economic statistics, the Commerce Department also said it was farming out the Index of Leading Indicators, its chief forecasting measure, to a private organisation.

Hoechst finalises deal

HOECHST, the German chemical and pharmaceuticals group, yesterday agreed to pay \$7.1 billion for Marion Merrell Dow, the US drugs maker, to become the world's third biggest pharmaceuticals group. One of the largest acquisitions in the industry, the deal was announced in January and had been under discussion since. The final price of \$25.75 per share in cash for the 71 per cent of Marion Merrell Dow held by the Dow Chemical group, was, however, unchanged from the January announcement. Hoechst will offer the same price for the rest of the shares. The German company plans to conduct its global pharmaceuticals business as Hoechst Marion Roussel.

Reebok to pay \$9.5m

REEBOK International has agreed to pay \$9.5 million to settle charges that the athletic footwear and apparel company prohibited retailers from selling its most popular products at a discount. The settlement follows a three-year Federal Trade Commission investigation into price-fixing by the company. The company admitted no wrongdoing, though it said it had discontinued the pricing policies that were the subject of the investigation. Reebok said that it wanted to avoid the cost of lengthy lawsuits. Investigators concluded that Reebok and its Rockport division prohibited retail dealers from advertising or selling their most popular products below list price.

Victory for more than 500 names

BY SARAH BAGNALL
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 500 Lloyd's names yesterday won an important victory in the House of Lords that has wide implications for other Lloyd's of London legal actions.

Names on the Outwaite syndicate 317/661 were challenging a Court of Appeal ruling last year.

This concluded that the names could not proceed with their legal action alleging negligence against the Outwaite agency and other members' agents because they were time-barred. That is the action failed to start within the required six years following the alleged event as permitted under the Limitation Act of 1990.

The names successfully argued that they should have the right to be allowed to proceed with their action on the grounds that the defendants had deliberately concealed their negligent acts.

Simon Roper at Oswald Hickson Collier, the solicitor representing the members' agents, said: "This ruling doesn't decide whether there was deliberate concealment. It just gives the names the right to argue their case."

The ruling clears the way for other action groups — such as Wellington and Poland — that are also facing the issue of being time-barred.

The names were members of the 1982 year of account and did not participate in the successful action brought by names on the syndicate which resulted in a £116 million out-of-court settlement in February 1992.

Bulgari plans quote on Milan stock exchange

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

BULGARI, the exclusive Roman jewellery, watch and perfume maker, is planning to go public after almost a century and half of close family control.

Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank, and the Italian banking group, Banca Commerciale Italiana, have been given mandates to explore a capital increase through a share placement and a listing on the Milan bourse.

The company, which has two shops in London, increased its net profit by 29 per cent to \$16 million last year on 36 per cent higher sales. Yesterday's announcement of the listing plan was accompanied by figures for the first quarter this year that showed sales up 25 per cent, suggesting a strong recovery in demand for luxury goods.

The Bulgari family, which moved to Italy from Greece last century, will retain a majority in the company after



Bulgari's store in Rome

the proposed issue of shares. It has held on to its main shop on Rome's Via dei Condotti since 1905.

Francesco Trapani, Bulgari's chief executive, said considering a public offering was a "very important decision" that followed two years which have demonstrated the company's strong growth potential in the traditional fine jewellery market, in the watch market and the per-

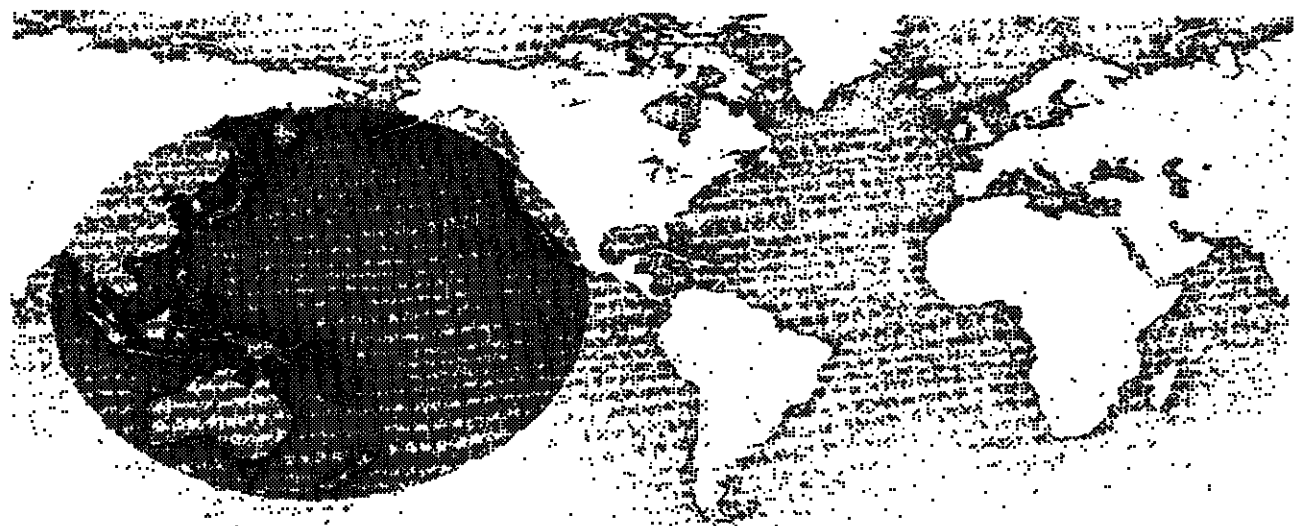
fume market, in which it has just made significant investments.

Signor Trapani said: "The possibility of having new shareholders and additional capital and investment potential will allow us to pursue even more aggressively our strategy of diversification and internationalisation."

Paolo Bulgari, the chairman, said the long-term objective was to become an international luxury goods holding. "Bulgari's success shows how, in certain conditions, there are no contradictions between growth and the preservation of one's own culture."

Jewellery, on which the company was founded, still accounts for 51 per cent of turnover, with the watches market providing 44 per cent and perfume 5 per cent of turnover. America is the biggest single market, at 20 per cent of sales, followed by Italy and Japan, both on 17 per cent. Europe, outside Italy, takes 29 per cent.

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□ Bank staff shoulder burden of risk □ Capital investment makes slow return □ Putting Cadbury to bed

Militants among the money

THE annual meetings of the high street banks have always provided an invaluable platform for disenchanted customers and other pressure groups to air their grievances. In the early eighties the anti-apartheid lobby persuaded Barclays and Standard Chartered to pull out of South Africa after repeatedly disturbing the smooth running of these set-piece occasions. Yesterday, however, Barclays' board faced barracking from a new quarter — its staff.

Bank staff are not by nature a militant band. Having three biscuits at elevenses is normally seen as a bit rebellious. But there is rising disenchantment behind the counters of all the high street banks, even if it has not yet translated into all-out strikes and flying pickets.

It is hard not to have sympathy with the staff of most banks since they have been hit from all directions in the past five years. When the recession began and bad debt losses mounted, the banking sector belatedly realised that its cost base was far out of line with other industries. Suddenly the days when banks offered a job for life were over. Since then, more than 100,000 staff have lost their jobs through natural wastage, early retirement or just plain redundancy. The ones left behind have been expected to work harder, and

learn new skills to keep up with the introduction of new technology.

The bank staff who remain have been poorly rewarded for their forbearance. In a further effort to restrain costs, the banks' recent pay awards have been minimal and often below inflation. In this instance Barclays is increasing the level of profit-related pay in its wage packets. This may look generous but has none of the security or pension rights that an old-fashioned across-the-board raise does.

Bank managers and tellers are effectively being forced to pay for the lending mistakes of the eighties. If the banks had been less profligate with their depositors' money, bad debts would not have crippled the banks and devastated their reserves in the early nineties. By increasing the proportion of profit-related pay, the banks are now further shifting the burden of risk from the shareholders to their employees in time for the next recession.

By cutting back on staff the banks are also making another group pay for past mistakes: customers. The rapid reduction

in staff levels has caused service levels to fall in many banks. Younger, less experienced managers are less well equipped to deal with tricky customers or branch errors.

That said, the threatened strike is not the answer to any problem. Bank strikes are prone to fizzle out before they begin and the latest affair at Barclays is likely to die down as soon as the management offers a token concession. But as Barclays' shareholders filed out of yesterday's meeting they would have done well to remember that it was the people with the placards that earn the profits.

Factories stage a comeback

ECONOMIC forecasters are relying heavily on capital investment to sustain the recovery, none more than the London Business School. It predicts a 6.2 per cent rise this year — in line with the six wise men but ahead of the Treasury — and 7.4 per cent next year.

This upbeat projection re-



quires some faith. Investment has performed sluggishly so far and studies from both the CBI and the Bank of England suggested last year that companies had erected Aintree-scale hurdles for investment projects.

The faith rests on "a very favourable combination of business conditions that have convinced the LBS that Britain is about to enjoy a renaissance in manufacturing investment. Rising profits and share prices, export growth, stable home demand and dwindling spare capacity will finally persuade companies to dip into their pockets for more than a few labour-saving computerised systems. The LBS projects rises of almost 15 per cent in manufac-

turing investment this year and next, followed by a still-healthy 10 per cent increase in 1997. Already, it notes, CBI surveys show a third of manufacturers citing expansion as a reason for their investment plans.

Such a recovery in manufacturing after decades of relative decline would surely have implications for the stock market. Sure enough, Hoare Govett, in an unusual strategy study looking at the remainder of the century, sees a secular shift towards the denuded manufacturing sector, citing the same favourable factors of a competitive exchange rate, cost control, improved quality and productivity. The broker predicts that manufacturing output will outperform consumer spending by 1 to 1.5 per cent a year "in stark contrast to the experience of the past fifteen years and more akin to the 1960s".

If investors accept the unwarranted notion that engineering companies might grow faster than supermarkets and that their margins might widen relatively, they will find few world-class British firms with the bulk

of their operations in Britain. The impact of long decline and two harsh recessions will not quickly be reversed.

A troubled rest at Silentnight

THIS is not what Cadbury meant at all. Shareholders in Silentnight have never enjoyed an especially restful sleep in spite of the company's strong grip on its market, and their dreams should be further troubled by the management changes there.

Silentnight has decided to enter into the spirit of Cadbury and split the top roles. Accordingly, after the annual meeting this summer there will be a non-executive chairman and a full-time chief executive. But instead of separating the roles by promoting the managing director and allowing the chairman, heading for retirement, to wind down gracefully, the company has decided to play the fairy godmother. Bill Davies departs a year early from the chairman's position, trousering £261,000 as he goes, a payment the company

has had to reveal now because of its sheer size in comparison with the profits. The money is rather more than the £163,000 he has been earning and would presumably also earn in his last year of employment, the extra being made up to compensate him for any loss of pension, poor duck.

One might suggest that Mr Davies would have served the company better by hanging around over the hand-over period, rather than handing the chairmanship to an existing non-executive director. One might question whether he should be compensated for not working to a greater extent than if he had carried on at the job. One might even wonder if this might be the occasion for Silentnight shareholders to awaken from their slumbers and start asking a few awkward questions.

Tariff reform

BAGGING Peter Sutherland, the Irishman who rapidly beat enough big heads together to make the long-running Uruguay trade round a success, could prove something of a coup for British Petroleum. But top executives may not entirely agree with shareholders about his becoming head of the group's remuneration committee. The last thing they want is a swinging general cut in tariffs.

Kwik Save slips 6% in food store price wars

By SARAH BAGNALL

GRAEME BOWLER, the outspoken chief executive of Kwik Save, yesterday predicted that more discount supermarket chains would disappear as competition among food retailers intensified.

"Because of the pressures being brought to bear on the market, the roll call of companies is getting shorter. There are more people to go, quite obviously. But Kwik Save will not be one," Mr Bowler said.

The ferocious price war being fought by food retailers has already caused a shake-out in the industry. Argill has sold its Lo-Cost chain while Budgens has abandoned its penny market facia. The biggest victim of the battle was Shoprite, the discount food chain in Scotland and the North of England, which was saved from collapse when Kwik Save bought it for the bargain-basement price of £53 million last November.

Mr Bowler's remarks came as he revealed the impact of

competition on Kwik Save with a 3.5 per cent drop in like-for-like sales in the 28 weeks to March 1.

The fall was an improvement, however, on the 5 per cent decline seen in the first eight weeks of the year and the shares rose 12p to 573p. The result excludes the Shoprite stores which contributed £41.3 million to group sales of £1.7 billion, an increase of 4.1 per cent. Pre-tax profits fell 5.8 per cent to £61.6 million. The Shoprite stores lost £900,000 before financing costs of £1 million.

Conversion of the stores has only started since the half year stage and the 12 that are now trading under the Kwik Save banner have lifted sales from £4 to £10 per square foot.

Mr Bowler said he intended to reverse the like-for-like sales decline by widening the product range, such as including newspapers and magazines, by upgrading its older stores, and via its pricing position. On Tuesday, Kwik Save intensified the price war by launching a price promotion throughout its 870 stores that will cut prices by up to 15 per cent on one in ten of branded goods.

He said that over the next two years the group would be upgrading 350 of its older stores. The older stores are seeing far larger declines than the average 3.5 per cent, he said.

The interim dividend, due July 3, was lifted 3.5 per cent to 5.95p. Earnings per share fell 7.3 per cent to 26p.



Bowler: "we will survive"

Tempos, page 28

Rebel rout likely at Signet

By OUR CITY STAFF

JIM MCADAM, chairman of Signet, confronts rebel shareholders this morning with an estimated 50 per cent of votes already lodged in his favour.

Signet, the former Ratners jewellery business, is under siege from a group of American preference shareholders who are proposing the company be broken up and sold within the next three months.

The shareholders, led by Sass Lamle Rubin, a New York investment house, forced Signet to call today's extraordinary meeting. The rebel shareholders have voting rights over 25 per cent of the group's equity.

It is believed that proxies representing about 50 per cent of voting capital support Signet's management and about 20 per cent favour the rebel shareholders. The resolution needs 51 per cent of votes cast to succeed.

Over the past two years Signet's shares have collapsed from about 300p to 13½p. The company has £350 million of bank debt.

Silentnight chief to get £261,000

By MARTIN BARROW

SILENTNIGHT, the bed manufacturer, will pay Bill Davies, executive chairman, £261,474 in compensation for loss of office. (See Pennington this page).

Mr Davies is to step down at the company's next annual meeting, 12 months early, after a decision by the board to split the roles of chairman and chief executive.

The payment includes one year's salary and compensation for loss of pension benefits. Keith Ackroyd, a non-executive director, will become chairman. Bill Simpson, group managing director since 1991, becomes chief executive.

The company said it would hold the total dividend at 8p a share, with a 5.25p final, after suffering a decline in profits to £11.1 million before tax in the year to January 28 from £12.4 million in the previous year. Earnings were 15.55p a share, down from 17.62p. Profits were struck after exceptional and reorganisation costs of £1.1 million.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Watching, not dozing

BARCLAYS BANK'S board was accused of having a quick 40-minute AGM while shareholders were subjected to a 20-minute "feel-good" movie about what a great job their bank does around the world. They had their heads in their hands, yelled a shareholder. An astounded chairman Andrew Buxton insisted the board had been studying the video screens in front of them. However, my correspondent cannot, with hand on heart, say who was right. The board may have been riveted to their screens, but my correspondent confessed to having nodded off half way.

Won't do

AMERICAN EXPRESS hit a real no-no with one of its mail shots assuring the addressee "We want you to have an American Express card". It went to a press officer at Barclays Bank, who replied her own card would do nicely.

Final takeover

DR FIONA CRAIG, a clinical development scientist, must be wondering why takeovers keep on following her around. Fiona works for the pharmaceuticals group Medeva, which recently announced it was in talks with Fisons. Now she has been asked for her hand in marriage by Richard Howell, that very noticeable 6ft 3in former guru on plant shares, and now split investment trust salesman at Greig, Middleton, who is well known for his heavy chalk-striped suits with bright, coloured linings. An August wedding is planned, and both parties assure me "this is a genuine merger by two willing parties - not a hostile take-over."



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Downhill now

I AM calling the top of the market. Why? Because yesterday, the hottest day in London for years, ICI announced the sale of its "end-user liquid Co2 business" - jargon for the gas that goes into soft drinks.

Missing lady

CITY thespians are out in force for the London Stock Exchange Dramatic Society's production of *Lady Be Good* - but sadly, the one who would have enjoyed it the most cannot be there. June King, who played the lead role in the society's 1955 production, was killed in a car crash in South Africa earlier this year. June, who spent many years with Cazenove, and had a long association with the society, had been looking forward to the latest effort. "It was her idea that we did the show," says Ed Cufflin of Henry Cooke, Lumsden, who joins his colleague, Jeremy Lewis, and William Harrison-Wallace of Warburg, among the cast. There are concerns that the LSEDS, which was founded in 1908, could fall by the wayside without June to rally the troops. *Lady Be Good* is on at the Steiner Theatre, northwest London, until tomorrow night.

COLIN CAMPBELL

From subsidy to subsidence: a Tory approach to housing

Janet Bush says the Government is merely aggravating a market already in deep trouble

Kenneth Clarke constantly reiterates the laudable aim of ridding Britain of its boom and bust cycles. In the case of the housing market, he seems to be trying to achieve this by creating a permanent bust. The Government's approach to the housing market over the past decade has broken one of the elementary tenets of economic policy-making. Clever stewards try to iron out dramatic peaks and troughs in economic activity by behaving counter-cyclically. But with housing policy this has served to exacerbate the cycle. The acute level of discomfort this has caused has never been as apparent as this week when a little known feature of a nonsensical housing policy was brought to light by *The Times*.

In the week of local elections, Mr Clarke was forced into a shambling U-turn after it was reported that payouts on mortgage protection insurance policies, for those who fall sick or lose their jobs, for example, were liable for tax.

Of course, few people actually knew about this tax and it was shelved less than 24 hours after it became public knowledge. To that extent, the matter is little more than another in a long string of government embarrassments.

But the anger the incident caused goes much deeper and says a great deal about the damage caused by following the wrong policies or, more accurately, some good policies at the wrong time.

In the 1980s, policy was skewed quite dramatically in favour of home ownership, largely because of the ideological commitment of one person - Margaret Thatcher. Her longest-serving Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, wrote in his memoirs that he constantly "ran up against a brick wall of Margaret's passionate devotion to the maximum amount of mortgage interest relief the Exchequer could afford".

He tried, and failed, to introduce a tax on consumer credit, including mortgages, in 1985. He also failed to convince the Prime Minister that double mortgage interest tax relief should be scrapped in both his 1986 and 1987 budgets.

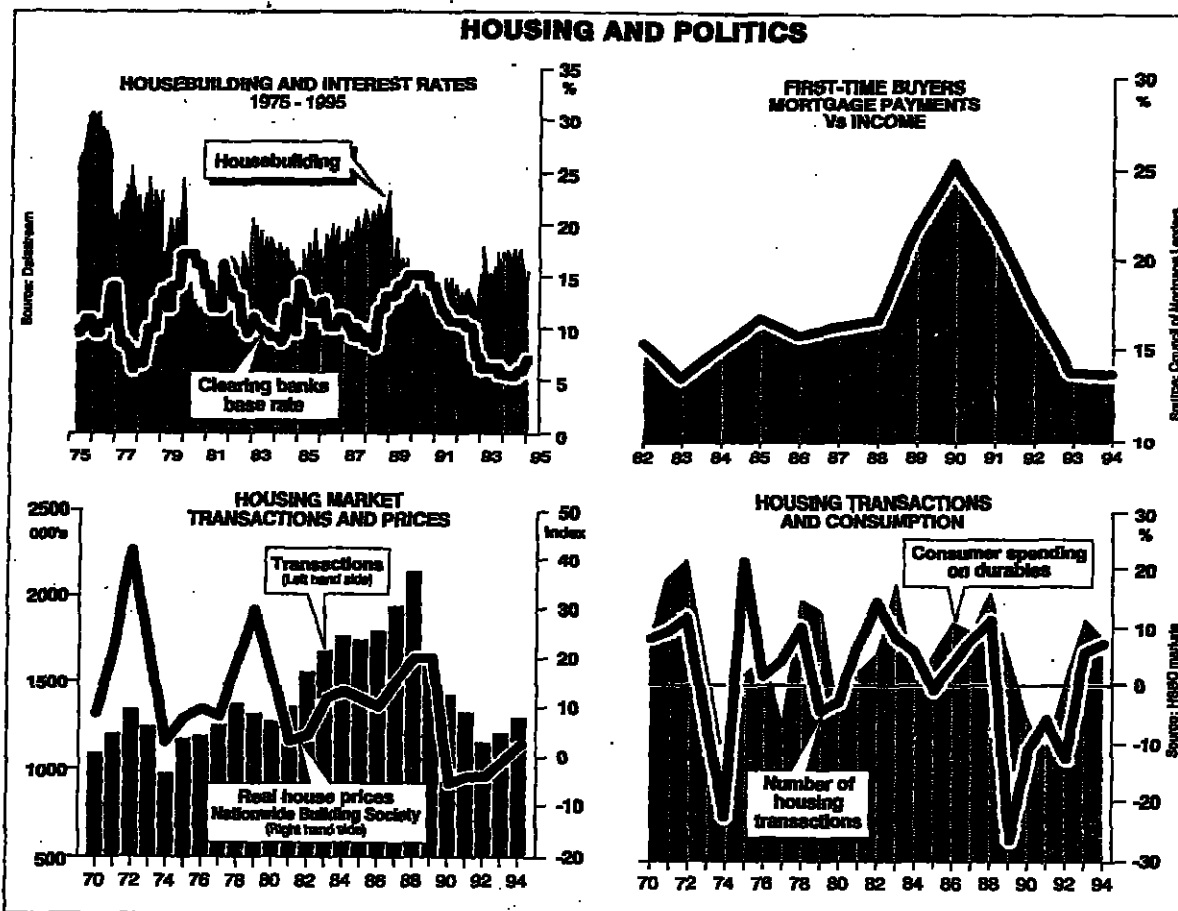
He finally persuaded her that this should be done in his 1988 budget and abolished double relief from the following August. Unfortunately, the effect was to produce the hottest leg of an already boiling housing market as purchasers rushed to beat the deadline.

According to Gary Marsh, head of economics at the Halifax Building Society, prices rose by 34 per cent in 1988 compared with 15 per cent in 1987, largely because of this "mistake".

Now, policy is skewed dramatically against the housing market. Part of the reason for this is a shift in ideology. Mrs Thatcher's property-owning democracy has now been replaced by John Major's classless society.

John Cole, the BBC's former political correspondent said in his memoirs that and British industry need is an increase in interest rates. Firstly it will raise our costs, but more importantly, it will have no impact on inflationary pressures in the manufacturing sector. It is inconceivable that the raw material suppliers, who because of a worldwide increase in demand and/or their semi-monopoly positions have been able to make price increases stick, will reduce them or withhold future planned rises. Further rises in interest rates will raise costs, increase the RPI and wage demands, and will also inhibit investment.

It can be argued that raising interest rates may reduce demand at the retail level given consumer uncertainty. Even if this were so, in the short term this will have no effect on raw material input prices and one can even see this fostering



Mr Major "maintained that his compassion leaped over the upwardly mobile to lower down the social heap". Mrs Thatcher was obsessed with the interests of mortgage holders, her electoral base. Mr Major is, according to Mr Cole, more concerned with those in society who could not afford houses because of inflated prices.

The current policy assault on mortgage holders is also bad management. Peter Warburton, chief economist at Robert Fleming, said: "There is a lack of co-ordination of policy and a lack of understanding about how parallel strands of policy have acted together."

The Treasury has been tightening monetary policy, leading to higher mortgage interest rates. Fiscal policy, too, is tight and money has been clawed back from successive reductions in mortgage interest relief. At the same time, Peter Lilley at Social Security has been trying to save money by cutting mortgage benefits to those on income support. On top of that, central government money to housing associations seems to be drying up.

The third reason why the housing market is under attack is that it is being "used as a scapegoat for all the ills of the 1980s", according to Mr Marsh. The Bank of England and the Treasury are perturbed that, if house prices start to rise, general inflation will too.

Adrian Coles, director-general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, takes issue with this analysis, arguing that house prices rose in reaction to inappropriate monetary and fiscal policies. Both were too loose in the mid-1980s. The most obvious example of

dangerous "pro-cyclical" policy was Nigel Lawson's 1988 Budget. He notes in his book that Mrs Thatcher was only persuaded to abolish double mortgage relief because that Budget "was such an exciting one overall". It shouldn't have been so exciting with the recovery that mature and that strong.

The boom in housing also came out of a series of once-and-for-all policy changes: most notably, financial deregulation and a related willingness to take on unprecedented amounts of personal debt.

Economic conditions now are completely different from the 1980s but the authorities are apparently blind to the change. Lending criteria have tightened as banks and building societies rebuild after the bad debts they incurred. People have had little chance to pay off their own debts during a deep recession and then a recovery, which was quickly accompanied by higher mortgage rates. The new, flexible labour market means that people are too scared to make large purchases. In an insecure labour market, the erosion of support for mortgage payments in case of redundancy - which potentially saves the Government a paltry amount of money - has had a disproportionate impact on confidence. People are not buying despite the fact that prices are historically cheap versus earnings.

On a macroeconomic scale, monetary and fiscal policies are both tight. While on a global scale, there is widespread competition and a bias towards deflation.

In doing everything it can now to prevent the resurrection of the housing

market, the Government has got its timing spectacularly wrong.

Much of the current thinking is right in principle. There is no reason why the tax system should so favour home ownership over other forms of investment. There are justified limits to the extent the state can pick up the pieces if individuals can afford to insure against sickness and redundancy.

But these are measures which should have been taken in the 1980s when the economy was robust and inflation was a real threat. Taking them now, when the consumer sector is under siege from higher taxes and interest rates and when inflation is low, is punitive.

Mr Coles accuses the Government of punishing all those people who were encouraged to buy homes in the 1980s, battering them with high interest rates and reducing government support. Both reflect tight fiscal and monetary policy and the determination to keep inflation low. He said he would have hoped the Government would have recognised the enormous costs of the transition to low inflation and tried to ameliorate these effects rather than exacerbate them. Another year of supportive policies - an amnesty would have helped people out of negative equity, reduced debt levels, staved off repossession and recreated a healthy and non-inflationary market.

The Government is likely to pay the price. A poll by stockbrokers James Capel of 1,000 people who voted Conservative in the last election found that 36 per cent will still vote Tory, 20.2 per cent will definitely not and 40.5 per cent are wavering.

So who can John Major really count on, what marks them out from the wavering? James Capel has one answer. A high proportion - 51 per cent - of the loyalists don't have mortgages - they own their homes outright.

Thatcher protected the interests of mortgage holders, her electoral base

BT treads a middle path Down Under

Rachel Bridge reports on British Telecom's expansion in Australia

A familiar red and blue logo made its first appearance on Sydney's skyline on Monday as British Telecom turned the building formerly known as Number One Market Street into a new BT Tower.

The event, which is being celebrated by a reception and dinner in Sydney's Darling Harbour, clearly signals BT's determination to make its mark in the Australian telecoms market.

With profits under pressure from growing competition in the UK market, BT is aware of the need to build new revenue elsewhere and has committed itself to investing A\$440 million (£202 million) in the Australian telecoms industry over the next seven years. In the past few weeks it has finalised a series of deals including the acquisition of an information technology services company and an agreement to sell videophones here.

But with two players already sharing the market between them - Telecom

area of the business they will just steal from one another," he said.

Instead BT aims to build itself a business as a service provider, offering multinational corporations local and private networks, facilities management and a host of telephone network products - many of which are being developed through its Concert joint venture with MCI of the US. Telecoms analysts say that the deregulation of the market in two years' time is likely to open up a raft of new opportunities.

Mr Kaye added: "BT's strategy in Australia is to become a niche market player. The way we see it right now, we will position ourselves to be a 'channel to market' for the existing carriers. We intend to be in strong co-operation with the two carriers and to adopt a benign value-added position between them."

It was not always thus. Mr Kaye added: "In the past BT Australia and Telecom had a confrontive relationship - highly aggressive, suspicious and confrontive. Over the past six months that has been changing - we are intent on having a very strong, mutually supportive relationship with Telecom and we are working hard to achieve that and they are responding well."

BT strategy is to be a niche market player

There was a lot of suspicion about BT's motives in the market place regarding carrier status," he said. "We are not going to be a carrier in this market place, we are not a threat to Telecom, we can in fact be a very strong channel to market for them. We actually work very closely together in many areas of the business and there's no reason why that shouldn't extend to the whole marketing and customer relationship."

He added: "There are discussions going on with Telecom all the time now on many, many levels to promote and enhance our relationship with them for the benefit of both companies."

BT is keen to get involved in mobile phones. Mr Kaye says the company is currently talking to both Telecom and Optus about getting involved and expects to have come to an agreement with one of them by the end of the year.

How much knowledge behind interest-rate obsession and that Bank job?

From Mr Peter Jackson Sir, The obsession of the financial press with interest rates and whether a further 0.5 per cent rise will be announced at the next meeting of the Governor of the Bank of England and the Chancellor misses the point - if the point is sustained real growth.

The City is apparently concerned at inflationary pressures while the CBI, while recognising the significant rises in raw material costs, argues that these cost increases are not filtering through to the high street and therefore there is no need to raise rates.

As a manufacturer, we probably fit the CBI picture in that we are faced by substantial increases in raw materials, particularly steel, but in general and particularly in export markets we have held our price increases to 3 per cent, largely because most of our markets are linked to the US dollar. We would like to raise our prices to recover cost increases but there is little doubt that market conditions are not conducive. All the evidence is that demand is fragile, particularly for investment goods. The last thing we

and British industry need is an increase in interest rates. Firstly it will raise our costs, but more importantly, it will have no impact on inflationary pressures in the manufacturing sector. It is inconceivable that the raw material suppliers, who because of a worldwide increase in demand and/or their semi-monopoly positions have been able to make price increases stick, will reduce them or withhold future planned rises. Further rises in interest rates will raise costs, increase the RPI and wage demands, and will also inhibit investment.

It can be argued that raising interest rates may reduce demand at the retail level given consumer uncertainty. Even if this were so, in the short term this will have no effect on raw material input prices and one can even see this fostering

further perverse arguments for interest rate rises.

The alternative hypothesis is that interest rates will have no effect and as Professor Bell said in *The Times*: "If anyone has evidence of the systematic relationship between interest rates and consumer spending will they please publish it." No-one has and yet there is still an illogical but unquestioning faith in the City, the Treasury and at the Bank that inflation can be defeated and the economy controlled by the use of interest rate manipulation. The total lack of any supporting evidence for this over the past decade is completely ignored.

The Chancellor should accept that there is little he can do to effect input prices and have the courage to reject empty gestures. Instead, he should commit himself to sup-

port investment in capital goods which is the only wholly beneficial counter to inflation.

Yours faithfully, PETER JACKSON, Chairman, Burgon & Ball Limited, La Fila Works, Holme Lane, Sheffield

From M. J. Isted Sir, Howard Davies comments on his appointment to the £180,000-a-year post as deputy governor of the Bank of England, that "there are aspects of what the bank does of which I have little knowledge", that he had limited knowledge of City regulation ("I have a lot to learn"). How did he get the job?

Yours faithfully, M. J. Isted, Foxwoods, Painstbrook Lane, Hadnall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Making war on Hanson

From Mr Sidney W. Melvin Sir, Hanson Plc is surely another instance of small shareholders being classed as second rate investors.

What benefit is there in having a handful of US shares with dollar cheque dividends, the face value being less than the bank's fee for clearing such a cheque. Retaliation is required. I suggest all small shareholders dispose of all their shares save one. Retaining a single share keeps all the shareholders rights (such as they are) but the nuisance value should be considerable. I can even visualise Lord Hanson offering me a large sum for my single share.

Yours faithfully, SIDNEY W. MELVIN, 13 Manson Mews, SW7

Yes, minister, there is too little training

From John B. J. Lidstone Sir, The reason why so many politicians fail as ministers is a lack of training for the job, coupled with never staying in one appointment long enough to achieve any sustained objectives, as Philip Basset's recent article illustrates.

For most Members of Parliament, their training, if it can be so described, is "sitting by Nellie" watching how a colleague does his/her job. The result of course depends upon whether a particular "Nellie" has had any formal training or not and can pass on that knowledge to others.

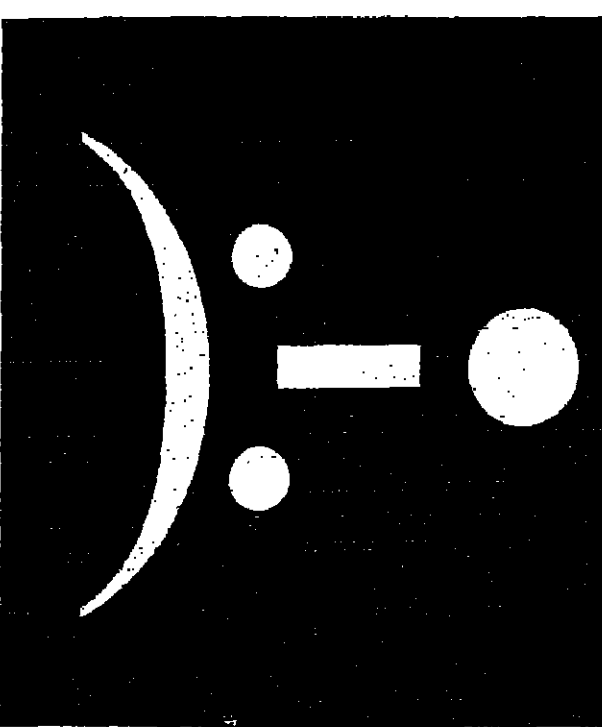
An MP appointed to a ministerial job, needs to stay in it for at least four years to be able to claim a real track record. In the first year, you either inherit someone else's mantle, or it is your first policy plan which good luck may

smile on or misfortune maim. In year two, you have one year's experience to aid your analysis and decision-making. It is in year three, when most of the political variables have hopefully been neutralised, that your policies stand or fall by your own managerial and political competence.

Only in year four can you prove by results whether the Bill you saw onto the statute book, translated into a policy and then implemented, may succeed in its original aims or not.

Since most ministers never stay in one job much more than 18 months, at most two years, with a few notable exceptions, is it any wonder that policies fail?

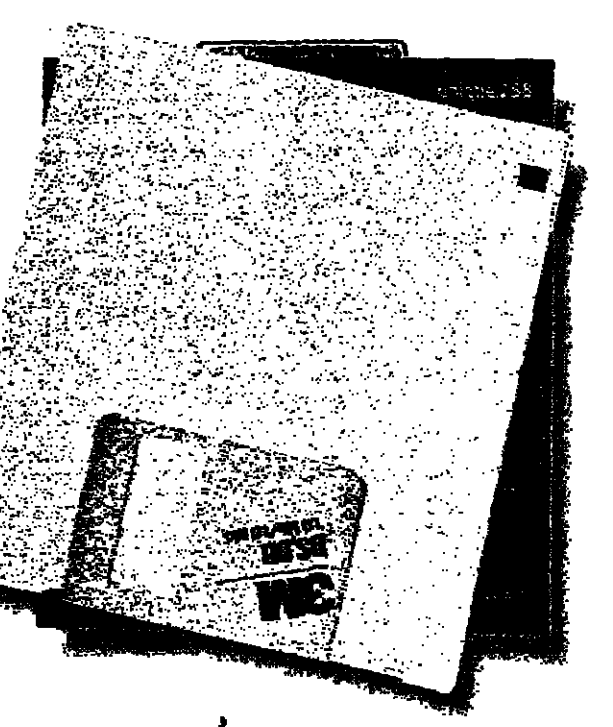
Yours faithfully JOHN B. J. LIDSTONE, 34 Tavistock Road, Fleet, Hampshire



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LASAT



Blacks left out of Britain's recovery, TUC says



Monks: "greater effort"

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S economic recovery is failing to benefit black people, according to a study of racial differences in the labour market. The analysis, carried out by the Trades Union Congress, finds that black workers are disadvantaged over both jobs and pay.

The study, which will be examined today at the TUC's black workers' conference in Scarborough, finds that black workers have seen little change in both employment

and unemployment over the past two years.

Using government figures from its quarterly Labour Force Survey, the TUC says: "With the recovery in the economy two years and more old, black workers have still to significantly benefit from the fall in unemployment."

While it points out that in recessions generally unemployment among black workers both rises much faster and to a higher peak than unemployment among white workers, it shows that while unemployment among whites

fell by 430,000 in the two years to last autumn, it did not fall at all among blacks.

Similarly, though employment started to rise in 1993 according to the LFS, job levels for black workers show no change over the period while for white workers the number of jobs rose by 250,000. Current black unemployment is twice that of whites, at 19 per cent, compared with 9.4 per cent.

Within the overall black total, unemployment is highest among Pakistani and Bangladeshi workers, where it

stands at 26 per cent and at 25 per cent among Afro-Caribbeans. On pay, black workers' hourly average pay is £6.78 compared with £7.44 for white workers, though black women earn on average more than white women, at £6.75 an hour compared with £6.46.

Black managers are 9 per cent worse paid than white managers, black craft workers 21 per cent and black sales workers 30 per cent. Black clerical workers, though, are paid 10 per cent more on average than white clerical staff. The TUC suggests there

may be occupational and sectoral reasons for the differences.

John Monks, TUC general secretary, said: "Government, employers and unions each have a role to play in ending the disadvantage faced by black workers. To achieve equality of access to quality jobs and training will require greater effort to ensure pay, promotion and recruitment structures, which are not discriminatory." The TUC believes a national minimum wage could help black workers.

Heathrow to cut time between take-offs

By Marianne Curphey

WAITING times for aircraft taking off and landing at Heathrow are to be cut in an attempt to pack more flights into the overcrowded airport during the peak summer period.

Air traffic controllers will begin a trial within the next fortnight to allow pilots to take off just one minute behind departing aircraft — half the current interval.

The experiment will initially involve British Airways and British Midland, but if successful, it could be extended to other airlines. In addition, trials to reduce the distance between aircraft making a final approach to land have been in place since last October.

Roger Budgen, general manager of Air Traffic Services for Heathrow, said increasing demand for slots, especially over the summer, meant his department needed to find more efficient ways of handling arrivals and departures.

Until now all aircraft taking off after a heavy Boeing 747 have had to wait two minutes until the air turbulence in its wake has dispersed.

Heathrow, the busiest international airport in the world, is scheduled to handle an average 78 aircraft an hour landing or taking off this summer. This is up from 74 an hour two years ago. However, this average is a planning guideline only and is often exceeded.

Wm Hill worries for Brent Walker

By Carl Mortished

BRENT WALKER, the debt-laden leisure group gave warning of lower turnover in the current year at William Hill, the betting shops chain, and said that it could not yet calculate the full effects of the National Lottery on the business.

The warning came as the group announced better results, with a rise of £10 million in betting shop earnings to £57.5 million, helping to boost 1994 operating profits from £53.7 million to £66 million.

Operating gains were swamped by the interest bill from Brent Walker's £1.4 billion of debt which cost £188 million last year and left the leisure group with a pre-tax loss of £143 million. The deficit was, however, an improvement on the 1993 pre-tax loss of £319 million.

John Leach, chairman, said that the refinancing of William Hill had given the group a degree of stability, but he said that there were still problems: "The group remains in a difficult financial position."

Brent Walker is not paying most of the interest bill. Out of last year's interest, more than £100 million was rolled up into preference shares.

The company hopes to introduce amusement machines in its betting shops to attract more business as competition from National Lottery outlets

and scratch cards intensifies. William Hill's revenues showed marginal growth from £154 billion to £158 billion, but profits rose because of a better gross win percentage and good cost control.

Mr Leach admitted that the National Lottery must be affecting revenue, but pointed out that wet weather in the first quarter affected racing. "We have done some sample surveys and we know that most of our customers are betting on the Lottery, but we don't know what part of the household budget is affected."

Brent Walker's accounts will again be qualified on a going concern basis by the company's auditors, who point out that the assets of William Hill are carried in the accounts at £697 million compared with an independent valuation in December 1993 of £486 million. Brent Walker's refinancing agreement runs until 1997, and Mr Leach expects that an exit route, through a flotation of William Hill or Pubmaster, the two core businesses, will be agreed before then.

The company sold about £40 million of assets last year, including the International Sporting Club and other casinos. The remaining assets, which include the Brighton Marina and Elstree Studios, are in the books at £75 million and will be sold.

Mr Leach said that Brent Walker's dispute with Grand Metropolitan over the deferred consideration payable under the original agreement to buy William Hill continues. GrandMet has sued to have the contract changed claiming that it does not reflect the intention of the parties, and the case is due to be heard in July.

William Hill is expecting substantial growth from telephone betting, which received a boost three years ago from debit card betting using Switch and Delta.

Pubmaster, the 2,000-strong chain of pubs saw its revenues fall from £93 million to £90.9 million last year, but profits increased by £2 million to £13.3 million. Last year the ownership of 641 pubs operated by Pubmaster changed hands as Allied Domecq sold the freeholds and leaseholds to Scottish Amicable. Mr Leach said that the sale demonstrated institutional confidence in the sector.

Pubmaster is leasing the pubs from the new owners and is investing heavily in new fixtures and fittings for the chain while selling off some pubs.

Tempus, page 28



On the buses: Robert Wood, chief executive of Henlys, has done another takeover deal

Tibbett & Britten warns on profits

By Neil Bennett

TIBBETT & BRITTEN, the transport group, has told the City that its first half profits will be lower than it previously expected due to soaring costs at Axial, its British car transport business.

The company's shares plunged 22 per cent, closing 145p lower at 525p. John Harvey, Tibbett's chief executive, said that although the group is taking remedial action at Axial, it is unlikely to do more than break even this year, compared with the profits of £10.1 million in 1994.

Until the warning, Tibbett had been expected to make £27 million profit this year, but analysts were yesterday downgrading their forecasts to around £17 million. The group also said it would maintain its dividend at 16.2p. The City had hoped it would rise to more than 17.5p. The problems have been caused by a sharp rise in business at Axial, which expanded in March last year with the £15.4 million

acquisition of Toleman. This has created severe congestion at Axial's depots.

Mr Harvey said that Axial had been hit by a series of adverse events, compounded by its poor use of information technology. The company has been overwhelmed by a large influx of vehicles from the Port of Liverpool, which has just started importing them, forcing it to hire large areas of land to store them and pay expensive piece work rates to its staff for moving them.

The group first alluded to the problems at Axial in March when it announced its figures for 1994. But at that stage it believed the problems could be resolved quickly.

Tibbett said that apart from Axial, its other distribution businesses in Britain and Europe are performing in line with expectations. It is continuing to tender for new contracts.

Tempus, page 28

Henlys hops aboard Northern

SHARES in Henlys Group rose 45p to 381p yesterday after the company announced further expansion of its bus and coach operations through the acquisition of Northern Counties for £10 million (Martin Barrow writes).

The acquisition of Northern, which manufactures double-decker bus bodies, was unveiled less than 24 hours after Henlys announced the proposed investment of £31 million in Prevost Car Inc of Canada, in partnership with Volvo. The expansion will be financed by a £13.5 million share issue at 330p, and from existing bank facilities.

Northern Counties supplies about 45 per cent of the UK's double-decker bus market. In the year to March 31, the business earned £1.4 million before tax on £15.6 million turnover.

Henlys' Prevost takeover deal will be financed by a £15 million five-year loan and from existing resources. Henlys will have a 49 per cent shareholding and Volvo 51 per cent.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Norsk Hydro buys ICI Teesside plant

ICI, the chemicals group, has sold its liquid carbon dioxide distribution business in Britain to Norsk Hydro for an undisclosed sum as part of its effort to concentrate on its core businesses. The business has annual sales of about £20 million and is the fourth piece of the Teesside operations that ICI has sold to other chemical companies.

Hydrogas, a subsidiary of Norsk Hydro, will collect the gas from ICI's plants at Billingham on Teesside, Severnside in Avon, Stanlow, Cheshire and Grimsby on Humberside, where it is manufactured as a side product of the group's ammonia-based fertiliser business. The carbon dioxide, which will replace the gas that Hydrogas currently imports, is sold to a wide range of end-users, particularly in the soft drinks and brewing industries. Its five employees will remain with the company.

Korean GDR trades

TRADING has begun in London in the largest global depository receipt. The Korean Mobile Telecommunications GDR raised £93 million, making it the first Korean GDR to be listed in London. The GDR market was created last August to make investing in overseas equities easier. Because GDRs are denominated in sterling and are not bound by the rules of the company's home country they are more liquid than shares. The Stock Exchange hopes to expand the GDR market in the next few years. Trading also started in Taiwan's first GDR. The issue by GVC, one of Taiwan's primary computer equipment producers, raised £54 million.

Electrolux jumps 56%

ELECTROLUX, the Swedish white goods manufacturer, announced a 56 per cent increase in profit after financial items in the first quarter, bolstered by continued strong industrial demand. Profits rose to 1.05 billion Swedish crowns (£89 million) from SKr668 million in the first quarter of 1994. Group sales grew to SKr29.62 billion from SKr26.58 billion. All business areas showed significantly higher operating income, with the largest increases achieved in commercial appliances and industrial products. Increased sales in Europe made up for a slight decline in North America, where demand for white goods was 1 per cent lower.

Apcoa issues pathfinder

APOCA, the German parking manager whose operations in Europe include Heathrow and Gatwick airports and the Borough of Westminster, issued a pathfinder prospectus yesterday that put the offer price for its planned listing this month in Frankfurt between DM67 and DM77 per share. Shares are also expected to be traded in London. The offer is likely to raise about DM85 million. Market value at flotation is thought to be DM127 million-DM137 million. Pricing is due on May 22, followed by a two-day retail offer in Germany from the next day. Operating profits last year rose 13 per cent to DM12.6 million before amortisation and extraordinary items.

Good start for T&N

T&N, the engineering group, reported an exceptionally good start to the year. Colin Hope, chairman, told yesterday's annual meeting that 1995's sales and profit were well ahead of last year. The trend was reflected throughout its worldwide operations with exports at the end of March 22 per cent up from a year earlier. There had been no further adverse developments on US asbestos litigation and liability, said Mr Hope. Outstanding claims at the end of March were "in line with the evaluation on which the 1994 accounts were based". The company's annual report last month said it would make a £50 million charge against 1995 accounts.

BT to enter Sweden

BRITISH Telecom has teamed up with Tele Danmark, the privatised phone company operating in Denmark, and Telenor, the Norwegian telecoms operator, which is state-owned, to enter the market in Sweden. Their new, jointly owned company, called Telenordia, is scheduled to spend about £200 million over the next five years to install switches and network capacity in Sweden. Initially, Telenordia is planning to go after large corporations and will target market services through Concert, British Telecom's alliance with MCI, the second-largest telecoms operator in the United States. BT's Australian plans, page 29

Weather hits Flogas

EXCEPTIONALLY mild weather and an unexpected increase in the price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) reduced profits at Flogas, the bottled gas company based in Ireland. In the year to March 31, profits were Ir£6.22 million before tax, compared with Ir£7.15 million for the nine months to March 31, 1993. Earnings were Ir£2.51p a share (Ir£24.5p). There is a final dividend of Ir£0.05p, making a Ir£0.62p (Ir£7.4p). The company said mild weather had a particularly severe impact on operations in Britain. Markets continue to be highly competitive, Flogas said, and the company sought to increase market penetration while reducing unit costs.

Exports boost Titon

TTION HOLDINGS, the manufacturer of ventilation equipment, said the decline of the pound against other European currencies had forced up the cost of imported components, squeezing profit margins. However, the company also said export sales grew at a faster rate than domestic sales. In the half year to March 31, Titon increased taxable profits to £1.08 million from £1.01 million, lifting earnings to 6.63p a share from 6.21p. The interim dividend is lifted to 1.5p a share from 1.4p, payable on July 3. The group expects significant sales of its new range of ventilators during the second half.

THE TIMES

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Swissair takes a 49.5% holding in Sabena

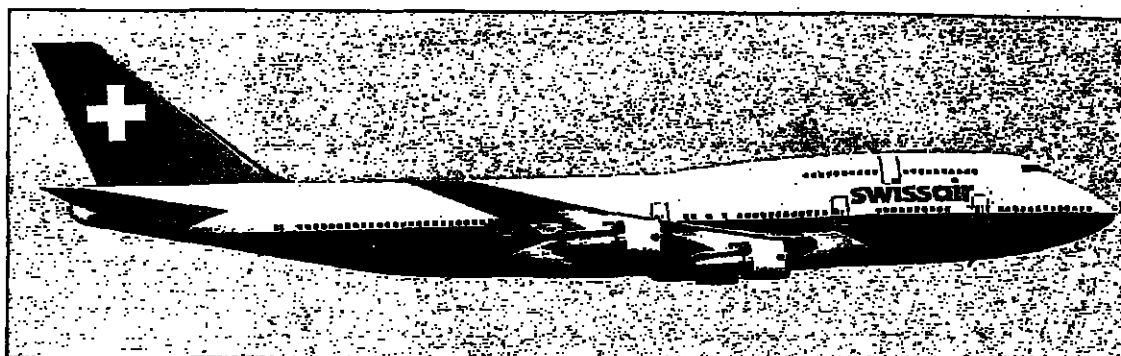
By Colin Nabbrough
WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

SWISSAIR, the Swiss national carrier, has taken a 49.5 per cent stake in Sabena, the loss-making Belgian airline, and is financing the buy-back of a minority stake controlled by Air France.

The Bfr10.5 billion (£229 million) deal was the first move in Swissair's strategy to form Europe's fourth biggest carrier and ensure it a good slice of the lucrative air transport market of the European Union.

The capital injection for Sabena will be financed from Swissair's funds. The profitable Zurich airline has agreed to pay Bfr6.5 billion for its stake and warrants.

It will also lend the Belgian state, which controlled Sabena, an interest-bearing loan of Bfr4 billion to buy back the 37.5 per cent stake held jointly by Air France, the troubled French national carrier, and Belgian institutions. The Bfr500.000



Flying high: Swissair is well known as a financially healthy airline with a sound management structure

Swissair paid for the warrants will allow it to up its stake to a majority in the future when the European Commission gives its permission. The responsible Brussels directorate under Neil Kinnoch, Transport Commissioner, has warned Swissair, however, that any effort to take control of Sabena at present would

put the Belgian carrier's status as an EU airline in jeopardy.

The agreement, signed in Brussels yesterday by the heads of the two airlines and the Belgian communications minister, is understood to allow Swissair to increase its holding to 62.25 per cent in 2000. Both carriers will meanwhile re-

tain their separate identities and management. Sabena's board will be made up of five representatives of Swissair and six appointed by Belgian shareholders with a Belgian, or other EU national, as chairman. Switzerland decided in a referendum in 1992 against membership of the EU, a decision which has meant

costly exclusion for Swissair from the deregulated single market in aviation. Otto Löffle, Swissair chief executive, left no doubts about his airline's intentions. "We aim to be a presence at the hub airport of Brussels, capital of Europe."

Pierre Godfroid, Sabena chairman, welcomed the tie-up with an airline well known for financial health and sound management. Swissair made a group net profit of about £12 million last year, compared with Sabena's net loss of 1.2 billion Belgian francs.

In terms of passengers carried, Swissair is about double the size of Sabena, flying almost 8.5 million a year. It has 62 aircraft, against Sabena's 39. Sabena had hoped its alliance with Air France would restore its fortunes, but the state French carrier ran into huge losses. Swissair turned to Sabena after its planned alliance with Scandinavian Airlines System, KLM and Austrian Airlines was abandoned in 1993.

FRIDAY MAY 5 1995

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Equities pause for breath

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
16	11	Alcoa (A)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (B)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (C)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (D)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (E)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (F)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (G)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
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16	11	Alcoa (I)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (J)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (K)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (L)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (M)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (N)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
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16	11	Alcoa (T)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (U)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (V)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (W)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (X)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
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16	11	Alcoa (F)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (G)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
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16	11	Alcoa (I)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (J)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (K)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
16	11	Alcoa (L)	154	+3	2.0	12.0
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Why IT's still a man's world

The information technology industry is constantly lurching from one skills shortage to another, leading to an ever-increasing need to attract new talent. But though it is predicted that women will account for the vast majority of new workers over the next ten years, they represent only 23 per cent of the IT workforce.

The National Council for Educational Technology (NCET) is hoping to attack the problem at the root, by encouraging more girls to take up the study of computing while they are at school.

The proportion of girls taking computer science at A level has fallen over recent years, from 22 per cent in 1978 to 19 per cent in 1993. The NCET, funded by the Department for Education, started a project last month to encourage more girls to take up the subject, sending information packs to all secondary schools and launching a promotional video and a poster competition.

Irene Ordridge, the NCET's project manager, says: "We know when we look at computer science degrees and at IT in the workplace that women are not taking up opportunities in that arena. For quite young girls, there is a certain peer group pressure for them to see computers as things that boys use. They focus on the working of the machine rather than on what the machines do. Parents increasingly see IT as a possible career for their daughters. Yet they don't buy machines for their daughters, although they might for a boy."

Emma Woollacott on why British women lag behind IT workers in America, Spain and Asia

Ms Ordridge says that the campaign will focus on showing girls how studying IT can help them to achieve broader career aims, and on providing role models for them. In addition, the development unit for women in science, engineering and technology — part of the Government's Office of Science and Technology — is to sponsor an event at the Science Museum on June 21, focusing on the opportunities for women in technology.

David Hunt, the minister responsible for science, says: "The aim of this event is to encourage girls and women to visit the exhibition in London and at its regional venues, and to consider what IT holds for them."

Mr Hunt says he is committed to increasing opportunities for women in science, engineering and technology. "IT use is essential for the future because women are likely to account for 80 per cent of the projected total increase in employment by the year 2006," he says. "It is important that girls and women are aware of the opportunities."

But Labour is convinced that the Government is not doing enough to deal

with the problem. In March, Judith Church, the MP for Dagenham, announced plans for a Bill — based on extensive discussion with Women in IT (WIT), an association aimed to increase women's involvement in the computer industry.

The Bill is likely to include proposals that schools use computers to help teach the subjects girls tend to be good at — history and English, for example — as well as the less popular subjects.

It will also call for the provision of single-sex computer clubs and for more women teachers to be sent on computing courses.

Ellen Neighbour, the operations manager of WIT, says that the Bill stands little chance of being passed, but will at least increase discussion of the topic. She believes the danger with some initiatives is that they tend to encourage women into the "soft" end of computing.

"It will help women to get in, but at what level, and in what jobs?" she says. "We need more women in the software and hardware industries if we are to make an impact. Women seem to make it only

up to trainee positions: a lot of them just don't make it through the 'glass ceiling'." WIT received funding from the DTI between 1989 and 1993. But now it has to rely on corporate donations for its work. However, Mrs Neighbour says that she is hoping for funding from the European Commission, through a joint request with groups in Ireland and The Netherlands.

WIT organises a range of informational events for its members, and operates a mentoring scheme within large companies, to give newcomers someone who can act as a role model and source of support. WIT is also considering creating its own pages and bulletin board on the Internet, providing information on careers and training.

In Britain, says Mrs Neighbour, the 23 per cent of women in the IT industry compares with 35 per cent in Spain, 45 per cent in America and 55 per cent in some Asian countries. It is often suggested that the high proportion of teleworkers in the IT industry makes it particularly easy for women with children, who want to work at home, to apply for these jobs. But this is disputed by Mrs Neighbour.

"The problem is that you are not going to see teleworking advertised," she says, "because the majority of companies fill these jobs internally. We get about 10,000 inquiries a year from women who want to do teleworking. To promise teleworking as a way of working to women is, at the moment, I think, a bit false."



Reversing the trend: abroad the numbers of women in IT is growing, while in Britain the numbers of girls who study computing at school is falling

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Siemens now wishes to recruit a Memory Product Specialist/Account Manager to further expand its business within the PC market. This role offers the successful candidate a challenging combination of DRAM product marketing and OEM sales to strategic UK computer accounts. You will be required to drive the business to achieve further profitable growth, as well as introduce a new range of multimedia products to the UK market.

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- Product marketing and/or sales experience of commodity products such as memories.
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This is a first class opportunity to join an organisation that is well established as a leader in its field. The successful candidate can expect an attractive salary and benefits package commensurate with experience.

To apply in total confidence please call Andy Clarke on 01273 480088 this week or next up until 7.30 pm or write to him at the address/fax number below quoting reference no. 40580.

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Telephone (01273) 480088 Fax: (01273) 480808 Int. code (+44 1273)

INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY RECRUITMENT

NETWORK DESIGNERS

Due to continued development of its business NETWORK DESIGNERS is seeking an experienced salesman to fill the following roles based in Wetherby, or rural Oxfordshire.

ACCOUNT MANAGER - OTE 60K

We are looking for an enthusiastic salesman to take over and grow a well established territory centred around local and Central Government customers. The successful candidate is likely to be in his late 20's, educated to degree level and will have a track record of success in selling within the Computer marketplace will be an advantage.

SALES CONSULTANT

SALARY: circa 24k plus bonus

NETWORK DESIGNERS is rapidly expanding its marketshare in the development of Windows products to regenerate mainframe legacy systems, through use of its Composer product portfolio. We are seeking a bright, energetic person to support the Composer Business Manager in meeting the demanding targets we have set ourselves. The role will involve providing pre- and post sales support, training, and system design/development. The successful candidate will be educated to degree level, have sound technical skills in a Windows environment coupled with sales experience through customer focused support work. Experience with ICL products and project management will be an advantage.

NETWORKING DESIGNERS is a well established company that has built its business on high quality software products serving the needs of the Client/Server marketplace. Its core skills lie in the ICL user community but it is currently embarking on a programme to grow its share in this and other markets by advanced software development and professional services. Part of this expansion will be in the exploitation of new products such as those in the Composer portfolio. These add businesses using Client/Server architectures and allows smooth cost effective migration to new technologies.

Both appointments offer benefits normally associated with a successful IT company. To apply for either of these positions please write, enclosing your CV to: Chris White, at Network Designers, 4 Wharfedale, Cattle Terrace, Wetherby LS22 6LX Tel: 01937 580101. Closing date: May 10th.

مكتبة من الأصل

INFOTECH

Should you buy new or second-hand computer equipment? Patrick Matthews finds drawbacks among the bargains

A guide to buying an old PC

This article is written on a sleek, sturdy IBM personal computer. If I chose to print it out, the document can emerge in a wide range of typefaces. Or I may use the internal modem to transfer it down a phone line. While researching it I have used the same modem and a subscription to an online service to scour a cuttings library.

The cost of this technological paragon? I paid £150. The trade-off for the low price was that I wasted a huge amount of time making it work. I should have been warned by the dealer's repeated claim that he was "going to be absolutely straight" with me. The going rate for the second-hand PC, by the way, was just £60.

To get a cheap PC you have to buy second-hand. These machines buck the trend which causes most modern gadgets to get much cheaper after they have been in production for a few years.

The cost of computing power plummets endlessly. Yet new PCs have cost much the same for years: my IBM PS/2 Model 30 cost a little over £1,000 when new. A new modern PC could easily cost the same.

The industry points out that today's machine, with its mouse-and-icon-based operating system, is vastly more powerful and approachable than the keyboard-controlled versions it replaced. But the more cynical explanation is that there has been a conscious decision to maintain the price of PCs through technological overkill.

Alan Jay, who edits the PC Users Group's magazine *Connectivity*, says: "There is an unholy alliance between the chip manufacturers, the hardware suppliers and the software companies to force everyone to trade up."

Jeremy Stirling, a director of CRA, which deals in older machines, says the market for home-use falls into three categories — computer buffs, families with children who are computer literate and where a PC is used only for a few simple tasks.

"Most PC home-users fall into this last category," says Mr Stirling. "The fact is that most users don't use or need more than 5 per cent of the power available to them. Most machines are vastly overspecified."

So why not set your sights low? Even when paying over the odds



Jeremy Stirling with some of his second-hand computer stock: "Most users don't use more than 5 per cent of the power available"

for an old IBM and buying a new inkjet printer and modem. I ended up with something hugely superior to, and even cheaper than, my first Amstrad, which cost less than £400. On the other hand, it took more than three months for my package to work as promised, a period which included bouts of acute mental torture.

The problem is software. The PC Users Group gets many inquiries from people who cannot use the old machine they picked up at a car boot sale. My troubles began when I found that the state-of-the-art

printer would generate only one font. The software that came supplied with it was for Windows, and the dealers had installed the wrong DOS software. Similarly, the fax/modem software was a Windows version and the promise to find something which would make it run on DOS was never made good. In the following weeks I made more than 15 calls to the dealers, which were answered with equivocations, promises, outright lies and, on one occasion gales of hysterical laughter.

Fortunately, I had inherited an

operating system and word-processor with the machine and was able, eventually, to get DOS programs through the printer and modem manufacturers. But all is not lost, even for those unlucky enough to find that the hard disk has been wiped clean.

DOS and DOS software is still available — although you might have to spend many times the value of the computer on buying a copy of the DOS operating system plus programs. The other option is second-hand software. Programs from discarded machines can, it

appears, be legally sold on, so long as not more than a single copy is made.

The cheapster's other crying need is for someone to talk to, other than a dealer, who may be ill-informed even if willing to help. IBM offers Helpclub membership at £49.50 for a year (free for owners of new IBM PCs). The PC Users Group is £10 cheaper, and claims to have the edge in dealing with discontinued products.

● CRA: 01734 887777. PC User Group: 0181 863 1191. IBM Helpclub: 01628 895222.

Loyalty begins in the home

Teleworkers beat office staff

PEOPLE who work from home using a computer and the telephone line are far more productive, loyal and reliable than their office-based colleagues. Government-funded research shows, writes Nick Nuttall.

The claim was made as Ann Widdecombe, the Employment Minister, launched a campaign to get more companies to set up so-called teleworking schemes.

She said there was now firm evidence that high-technology and home working can boost a company's profits by cutting overheads and adding to the flexibility of a workforce.

The report, *Teleworking in Britain*, was carried out for the Employment Department by Ursula Huws of Analytica. It says that about one in 20 companies have teleworking programmes where some staff work at least part-time from home. While the report does not show the exact number of people teleworking, it was estimated that 200,000 people were involved in such schemes.

The report says that a typical teleworker tends to operate in the service industry as a financial consultant, freelance journalist, secretary, word-processing clerk or researcher.

A cough detector could help doctors treat early signs of asthma

THE HACKING cough and the wheezing, whistling chest have finally succumbed to the computer age 150 years after the invention of the doctor's stethoscope, writes Nick Nuttall. Engineers have devised an electronic system able to analyse the rasping and fluting sounds coming from a patient's lungs.

Medical researchers hope the system could soon be on doctors' desktops where it

Splutter into my machine, please

may give early indications of everything from childhood asthma to bronchitis conditions, some of which may be linked with cancer.

The computer system, which includes a micro-

phone, has been developed by Stoneman and Company, based at the University of Wales in Swansea, and is being tested by a Liverpool hospital which is linked to Liverpool University's de-

partment of medicine.

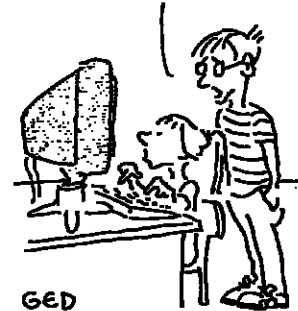
Dr John Eavis, of the Aintree Chest Centre at the Fazakerly Hospital in Liverpool, says: "We have set up a project to look at different groups of patients with different diseases to see how the cough changes. Almost certainly we will find that coughs change with disease."

It can also put to the test the many cough medicines which litter the chemists' shelves.

Net profits? Not yet

Businesses are rushing to offer goods on the Internet. But is there enough demand, asks Matthew May

I may be computer illiterate but at least I can spell



been possible to order wine electronically from Sainsbury's, and HMV has just announced that it will use the Internet for a new home-shopping service starting next spring that will provide online access to nearly 200,000 record titles.

Other new arrivals include *Time Out*, a London listings magazine, and an online tour of the north Spanish monastery of Santo Domingo de Silos, home of the Benedictine monks responsible for Canto Gregoriano, the chart-topping album of Gregorian chants.

Those with access to the CompuServe network can now

order online from a group that includes Dixons, Interflora, Virgin, WH Smith and wine from Tesco.

Perhaps it is just a problem of too much talk too soon. Most of the personal computers now going into British homes are being bought by parents who are worried that, without one, their children might become computer-illiterate. And parents are far more interested in buying a PC with a CD-ROM drive, in the hope that their offspring will use it to run educational software, than in subscribing to an online service to buy wine.

But it does mean that many British households now have the ability to get online fairly cheaply. In the future, a more general audience may decide that adding a modem and an online subscription to an existing PC may be worthwhile.

If that happens, the main concern is that the Internet will be not be able to cope. All the main commercial online services are preparing to give their subscribers full access to the World Wide Web, the easiest to use and fastest growing part of the Internet. CompuServe has just done so.

Already, there is a fear that the addition of potentially tens

of millions more Internet users around the world will cause the whole system to grind into unusable slowness.

Perhaps the critics will, after all, have the last laugh as the Internet becomes a victim, not so much of terminal boredom, but its own success.

Sainsbury's: <http://www.f-sainsbury.co.uk>
Time Out: <http://www.timeout.co.uk>
Canto Gregoriano: <http://www.demon.co.uk/canto/>

Newspapers are the perfect place to strike up a lasting relationship.



Compatibility is never a problem with Apple Macintosh.

Thinking the right partner can be one of life's most painful experiences. But not if you search Apple Macintosh. With compatible with practically everything, from word processors to spreadsheets, from games to databases, from desktop publishing to the Internet, Apple Macintosh is the perfect match.

If a product is to find a place in our homes, it must first find a place in our hearts.

Such a relationship can only be achieved in one advertisement.

The Apple Macintosh is a classic example of a product which has won an enduring place in our affections.

For years its makers have used newspapers to conduct a low affair with the customer, steadily building up a relationship. A witty and charming series of advertisements have, over the years, informed, captivated and stolen our hearts.

Macintosh itself can be now scarcely be thought of as an inanimate object (dumb, a certainly isn't). It has its own character, wit, strength and eccentricities.

All of which are strongly in evidence in this outstanding advertisement by agency Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO which won a top prize in our recent National Newspaper Campaign Advertising Awards. Congratulations.

USE THE POWER OF THE PRESS

Apple harvest

APPLE COMPUTER has announced two powerful multimedia personal computers for the home that can include the increasingly common options of being able to listen to an audio CD or watch TV while you work.

Both use Power PC processors and include a quad speed CD-ROM drive. Prices range from £1,500 to £1,800. The company has also introduced a new £1,600 version of its dual-chip hybrid computer, which, by including a 486 processor, will enable users to run industry-standard Windows, as well as Apple software at full speed.

Censorship

DEFENDING the right to free speech in cyberspace has become more difficult after the bombing in Oklahoma City.

An *Anarchist's Cookbook* and other information on how to make bombs has been on the Internet for some time. Since the bombing they have attracted wide publicity in America, resulting in many calls for censorship.

The problem is that nobody has come up with a practical suggestion that could not be circumvented



on how to remove undesirable information.

Hair-raising

MATSUSHITA Electric has developed what it calls Virtual Looks Simulation technology, which allows users to input their facial image into a PC, then "try on" different computer-generated hairstyles. Computerised digital technology has allowed this to be done for some time, but it can be a time-consuming and costly procedure. Matsushita says that the new technology is cheap enough for use in hairdressers and beauty salons.

It adjusts hairstyles by detecting the position and

shape of eyes, brows and a facial outline.

Fast play

THE Californian interactive game-maker 3DO says that it will sell an upgraded 64-bit machine later this year that it claims will be able to offer the same performance as computer workstations and arcade players.

It says that the M2 player will have far sharper graphics speed and quality than its own existing 32-bit system — a compact disc format — and 32-bit players by Sony and Sega, which are currently selling in Japan. Nintendo has said it will launch a 64-bit cartridge system. Ultra-64, by December.

At the double

THE research firm Datamonitor is predicting that by the end of next year four out of five PCs sold to the home will include CD-ROM drives.

It says that the market will more than double in size this year, with five million CD-ROM drives expected to be sold, turning multimedia PCs into a mass market.

Datamonitor expects the uptake of CD-ROM on business PCs to be considerably less in the short term.

Infotech is edited by Matthew May. E-mail address: matm@timesdelphi.com

Dorling Kindersley Multimedia

"The best discs ever" CD-ROM TODAY



"A magic lesson in human anatomy" DAILY TELEGRAPH

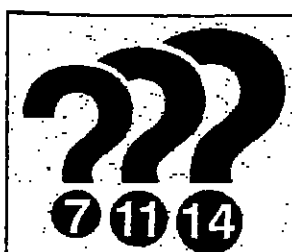
Winner Education category MILIA AWARD

LOWER PRICES - EVEN BETTER VALUE



TODAY: Science for 14-year-olds — how to learn from past mistakes, and samples of last year's questions

Applying your brains to science



TESTPLAN

Jack Clarke says there are no short cuts to a good result

Science is the last of the three core subjects to be tested next week. But there is no respite once the Bank Holiday is over, so it is important that students arrange their preparation to cover the full range of work.

There is no short cut to a good result in science. For the majority of students, the two main test papers will assess work which will have been taught by their schools up to year 9. The extension paper will contain questions for students who have already studied work normally taught in year 10 or 11.

Teachers will have assessed students' achievements in the first part of the curriculum — Scientific Investigations — and the average of all of these assessments will be reported to parents and students in July. Next week's tests cover the other three designated areas of study: life and living processes, materials and their uses, and physical processes.

Revision

1. Choose a quiet area with good lighting.
2. Set a time limit.
3. Do not revise for too long in one revision session.
4. Look back frequently at what you revised yesterday to reinforce your memory.
5. If you do not understand something — see your teacher.

Questions and answers

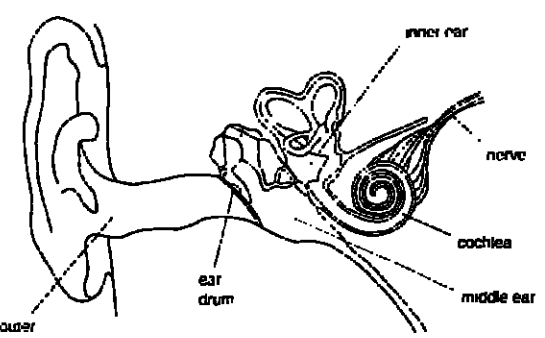
Students can improve their marks by listening to and by following the advice of teachers on the approach to differ-

LAST YEAR'S LEVEL 5 — AVERAGE

When a tuning fork is struck, it makes a sound.



(a) How does the tuning fork make a sound? 1 mark



The labelled diagram shows the structure of the human ear.

(b) Which part of the ear:

(i) collects the sound? 1 mark

(ii) carries information to the brain? 1 mark

maximum 3 marks

ent types of questions. Some tips as well as some examples are given below.

1. Make sure you read the question carefully and answer the question which is on the paper — not a different question in your own mind.

2. Follow the instructions of the questions carefully — if the question says put an (X) in a box, put an (X), do not leave it blank. If two boxes need to be ticked, do not tick one or three or more boxes.

3. Do not be vague in your answers. In a question asking for factors affecting the birthweight of a baby, "drinking" is a vague answer, "drinking alcohol" is precise.

4. Make any drawings you produce very clear and as accurate as possible. In long written answers write very clearly without waffle.

5. Use scientific words where appropriate. If you are asked how energy is transferred

from the Sun down through the atmosphere, the expected answer is "by radiation", rather than a vague answer such as "through the air".

6. In questions asking for a comparison to be made, such as "compare energy input with energy output", compare the values, do not explain why they are different values.

7. Questions sometimes ask for a cause of something happening and sometimes ask for an effect of something happening. If you are asked for the ways in which the building of a road causes more pollution, make sure you address the causes (motor cars produce fumes/noise), not the effect of the pollution (the trees will die).

8. Finally, in answers where there is a number, also put in the units eg joules, watts.

There are no hard and fast rules about what to revise. Next week's tests may concen-



Laboratory testing: science is the last of the core subjects

trate on any of the topics in the Key Stage 3 curriculum. But there are some of the themes that have featured in previous papers, and which would be a good starting point for a limited revision plan.

Life and living processes: The structure and function of systems, such as the reproductive system, in the human body and other animals.

Ecology: the dynamics and balance of living things and materials in a biological community. For example, food chains and food webs, including the predator/prey relationship.

Plants: photosynthesis, the structure and function of the main plant organisms.

Materials and their properties: classification and structure of solids, liquids and gases. The properties of metals and non metals. The differ-

ences between elements, mixtures and compounds, including the periodic table. Changes of materials: the water cycle, different types of rock and the weathering process.

Physical processes: electricity and magnetism. The relationship between current, voltage and resistance, paying particular attention to Ohm's law. Forces and motion, including friction. Remember that pressure = force divided by area; speed = distance divided by time; work = force multiplied by distance.

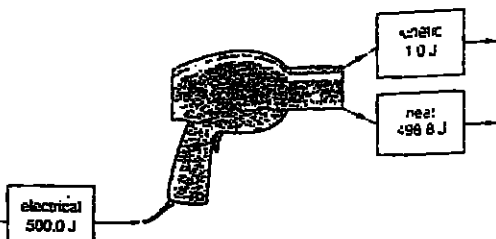
The Earth in space: movement of the Earth, satellites and the positions of planets in the solar system.

Most formulae are required only in the higher-level tests and will be listed on the test paper.

Jack Clarke is the head of science at Shevington High School, in Wigan, Lancashire

LEVEL 6 — AVERAGE

The diagram shows some of the energy transfers that take place in a hair dryer during the first second after it is turned on.



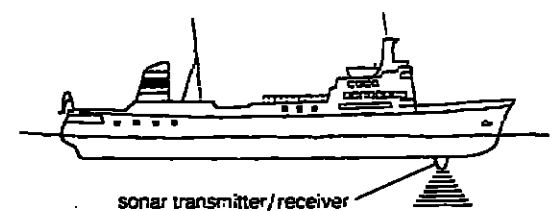
(a) Not all the energy transfers are shown in the diagram. Explain how you know this. 1 mark

(b) Complete the diagram by adding another labelled box to show the missing energy transfer. 2 marks

maximum 3 marks

LEVEL 8 — ABOVE AVERAGE

Ships use sonar to find the distance to the seabed. A pulse of sound waves is sent out and the echoes are detected.



The ship emits a pulse of waves for 0.5 s. The waves have a frequency of 3500 Hz.

(a) How many complete wavelengths does the pulse contain? 1 mark

(b) Describe how the sound waves are transmitted through the water. 1 mark

(c) As they leave the ship, the waves have a speed of 1400 m/s. Calculate the wavelength of the waves. Show your calculation and give the correct unit. 2 marks

maximum 3 marks

Lessons from last year

How pupils threw away marks in 1994

Science tests are probably the source of greatest anxiety for pupils. Yet last summer 14-year-olds achieved higher marks for science than for either English or mathematics.

On Tuesday and Wednesday next week, pupils will take two one-hour papers carefully tailored for different ability levels. Teachers will decide whether pupils sit tests covering national curriculum levels 3-6 or levels 5-7. Those who have not reached this standard will undertake different tasks with their teacher.

It is important to remember that the questions on each paper get progressively more difficult because they are designed to assess children across a wide range of ability. Do not worry if you find that after sailing through much of the paper, you begin to struggle. Last year the examiners reported that level 6 questions were answered less well on the tier 3-6 paper than level 7 questions on the 5-7 tier.

Government advisers who analysed common errors in last summer's dry run have also highlighted a number of other helpful points. They stress:

■ The importance of reading each question carefully and following the instructions. Too many pupils frittered away marks last summer because they answered questions which were not on the paper.

■ The need to use scientific vocabulary in answers. Some pupils last year took their cue from the way questions were set in everyday contexts and missed the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge.

■ The need to write clearly and precisely. Marks will be forfeited if work is illegible. Drawings were often neither careful nor accurate.

■ The importance of checking that numerical answers are given with the right units. Pupils often completed the most difficult part of questions successfully last year, only to throw marks away by, for example, giving the answer in joules rather than in watts.

Overall, the advisers found that questions on the topic Life and Living Processes were the best answered. Pupils had particular difficulty answering questions about logic gates, indicators and pH, word equations, chemical compounds, energy, the conditions for decay and earth science.

BEN PRESTON

THE TIMES

Buy one Shakespeare study aid, get any other for 20p.

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Audio Study Aids form a new and powerful educational tool: superb readings and performances of novels and plays on audio cassette, combined with GCSE examination guide notes.

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Check your maths

HERE are the answers to yesterday's mathematics questions. They underline the point that a less than perfect answer can still score some marks.

Question 1: rectangles (levels 5-7)

a) For 2 marks, mention $\frac{1}{2}$ in explanation or as fraction of square added on, eg explains: "He added on $\frac{1}{2}$ not one-third."

For only 1 mark, give a correct explanation which does not include $\frac{1}{2}$.

b) one-third
c) one-seventh
d) one over n - 1

Question 2: arcs (levels 7-8)

a) For 4 marks: correct area of shape A is 3.14; or π

For only 1 mark indicate an appropriate method for subtracting area of a small semi-circle or circle from a large semi-circle or circle (evaluation may be omitted or incorrect).

eg uses incorrect radius and shows: $\pi \cdot 2.5^2 - 9.8 \cdot \pi \cdot 0.5^2 = 0.39$

shows for a circle: $7.07 - 0.79$

shows: $\pi \cdot \text{over } 2 \cdot (1.5^2 - 0.5^2)$

shows: $3.5325 - 0.3925$

shows: area of big semi-circle - area of small semi-circle

For only 1 mark substitute 1.5 unit radius correctly into a formula for the area of the large semi-circle or circle (evaluation may be omitted or incorrect)

eg shows: $\frac{1}{2} \times 3.14 \times 1.5^2$

shows: 3.5342917

shows for a circle: 3.14×1.5^2

shows for a circle: 7.065

For only 1 mark substitute 0.5 unit radius correctly into a formula for the area of the small semi-circle or circle (evaluation may be omitted or incorrect)

eg shows: 3.14×0.25

NEXT WEEK

On Monday: How to prepare for the first tests of 11-year-olds in English, mathematics and science.

Plus: An outline of the extension papers for the brightest 14-year-olds.

shows: 0.3926991
shows for a circle: $\pi \times 0.5^2$
shows for a circle: 0.785
Question 3: lighthouse graph (levels 4-6)
a) mark 3 crosses due north of lighthouse
b) 1 mark for each grid reference of own point

shows: 380,750 for boat plotted at this point

c) indication only (370,820)

d) plot David's boat at 360 east, 750 north.

e) draw line on a bearing of 235 degrees from David's boat

f) state a number in the range 153-159.

THE TIMES

Training videos offer

DO YOU want to make a powerful impression on your boss and be influential in your office? *Winning Ways*, a training video featuring the late Brian Redhead, tells you how.

In a witty and penetrating conversation Redhead and Andrew Kakabadse, professor of management at Cranfield School of Management, make points which are vital to people who work for organisations and are deeply interested in enhancing their careers.

Another video, *Mentoring*,

explores one of the fastest-growing methods of developing people within a business.

Mentoring is a way in which experienced staff help other people through transition periods, perhaps by showing them new skills or by helping them adjust to a new job.

Winning Ways runs for 27 minutes, *Mentoring* for more than 19 minutes. These videos are normally sold at £49 each. *Times* readers can buy them for the special price of £49 for two, inclusive of post and packing.

MANAGEMENT VIDEOS OFFER

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Application of fraud concealment rule

Sheldon and Others v R. H. M. Outwaite (Underwriting Agencies) Ltd and Others

Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mustill, Lord Lloyd of Berwick and Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead

[Speeches May 4]

Section 32(1)(b) of the Limitation Act 1980, providing that where facts had been deliberately concealed by the defendant the limitation period would not begin to run, applied to concealment occurring subsequently to, as well as contemporaneously with, the accrual of the cause of action.

The House of Lords by a majority (Lord Mustill and Lord Lloyd dissenting) allowed an appeal by the plaintiffs, John Brooke Sheldon and other Lloyd's names on syndicates 317 and 661, managed by the first defendant, R. H. M. Outwaite (Underwriting Agencies) Ltd, from the Court of Appeal (Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice Kennedy) (The Times July 1, 1994; [1994] 3 WLR 999) which, by a majority (Lord Justice Staughton dissenting) had allowed an appeal by the defendants, Outwaite and other members' underwriting agents, from the dismissal by Mr Justice Saville (The Times December 8, 1993; [1994] 1 WLR 750), on a preliminary issue, of summonses for the defendants for paragraphs of the plaintiffs' points of reply alleging deliberate concealment to be struck out.

Section 1 of the 1980 Act provides: "(2) The ordinary time limits given in this Part of this Act are subject to extension or exclusion in accordance with the provisions of Part II of this Act."

Section 32 (in Part II) provides: "(1) ... where in the case of any action for which a period of limitation is prescribed by this Act either (a) the action is based upon the fraud of the defendant; or (b) any fact relevant to the plaintiff's right of action had been deliberately concealed from him by the defendant; or (c) the action is for relief from the consequences of a mistake; the period of limitation shall not begin to run until the plaintiff has discovered the fraud, concealment or mistake ... or could with reasonable diligence have discovered it."

Mr Sydney Kenridge, QC, Miss Barbara Dohmann, QC and Mr T. A. C. Beazley for the plaintiffs; Mr Ian Hunter, QC and Mr Colin Hunter, QC for Outwaite; Mr Ian Hunter, QC and Mr Jeffrey Gruber for the other defendants.

LORD KEITH said that the plaintiffs had issued their writ in April 1992, claiming damages for alleged breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty and negligence. The alleged acts or omissions founded on as constituting the cause of action had occurred in or about 1982. That being more than six years prior to the issue of the writ, the defendants had pleaded that the action was time-barred.

By their points of reply the

plaintiffs had alleged that by reason of deliberate concealment by the defendants in 1984 of facts relevant to the plaintiffs' cause of action they had not discovered those facts until a time less than six years prior to the issue of the writ, and they had founded on section 32 of the 1980 Act. The defendants sought to have those parts of the points of reply that alleged deliberate concealment struck out.

The question was whether the plaintiffs could rely, for purposes of section 32, on deliberate concealment by the defendants of matters relevant to the plaintiffs' cause of action that had occurred after its accrual.

The argument before the House of Lords had traversed a very wide territory. The impression left from a survey of it was that the issue arising on the appeal had rarely been directly addressed.

His Lordship referred to *Ch v Woodall* (No 2) [1977] Ch 108, 248; *Thorne v Heard* [1994] 1 Ch 599; *Beaman v A. R. T. S. Ltd* ([1994] 1 KB 550); *Kitchen v Royal Air Force Association* [1995] 1 WLR 563; *Westlake v Bracknell District Council* ([1997] 19 HLR 375) and *Prescott and Mansfield v Limitation of Actions* (1st edition (1994) p361) and continued:

"The past history of the limitation legislation and cases decided under it provided uncertain and conflicting guidance on the issue under consideration. It had to be decided on an examination of section 32 itself taken in its context."

He had never held a full driving licence but driving cars, often not belonging to him, seemed to be his obsession. He had been caught on several occasions and had received several sentences.

The only arguable mitigation was the plea of guilty. He was given no credit for the plea of guilty because, the recorder said, the incident was the cause of a dangerous driving with which any court could deal and, effectively, he was caught red-handed.

The present was an example of a case where any discount for a plea of guilty might be reduced or lost. The appellant had no realistic prospect of contesting the matter, since he had been caught red-handed. It was not necessary to be expected that the court would reduce a sentence, otherwise appropriate.

The recorder was right. The sentence was appropriate.

He did so at times with car lights switched off, caused another moving vehicle to take action to avoid a collision, drove on the wrong side of the road, through traffic lights showing red against him, collided with another moving vehicle and came to rest on the pavement. A breath test proved positive.

On those facts it was impossible

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particularly since the 1980 Act was a consolidating Act, there being no such difficulty or ambiguity as referred to by Lord Wilberforce in *Farrell v Alexander* [1977] AC 59, 73.

It was clear that in relation to paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1) all relevant circumstances would be in place when the cause of action accrued, so that it was entirely appropriate for the court to provide that time should not begin to run until discovery or imputed discovery by the plaintiff.

The terms of paragraph (b), however, were wide enough to cover both the case where the concealment was deliberate and the case where it was the result of negligence with the accrual of the cause of action and the case where it occurred at some later time. So it would be natural to expect both cases to be covered by the enactment, and in his Lordship's opinion they were.

The problem was said to be that in the case of a concealment taking place after the accrual of the cause of action time would already have started to run under section 2 or 3.

It was argued for the defendants, on the lines adumbrated by Sir Robert Megarry, Vice-Chancellor, in *Tito v Waddell*, that once time had started to run it would continue to do so unless there was some express statutory provision to the contrary.

In his Lordship's opinion such provision was to be found in section 1(2). It was clear enough that so far as paragraphs (a) and (c) of section 32(1) were concerned the ordinary time limits were completely excluded. His Lordship was of the opinion that they were similarly excluded in any situation covered by the language of paragraph (b), including where the concealment did not take place until after the accrual of the cause of action.

The introduction of a time limit commencing at the discovery or imputed discovery of the concealment necessarily involved that time could not be treated as having started to run from accrual of the cause of action. Sections 2 and 3 were to that extent rendered inapplicable.

It was suggested that that construction produced an absurd result in that a concealment taking place five years and 11 months after accrual of the cause of action could result in an almost indefinite extension of the limitation period. But on the contrary construction a concealment occurring one month, or even one day, after the accrual would afford the plaintiff no protection at all.

Perhaps a more cogent argument against the construction was that if it was correct even a concealment taking place more

than six years after accrual of the cause of action would bring section 32(1) into play. But that was not a reasonable objection, since it was not conceivable that a potential defendant would set out to conceal facts relevant to a cause of action when more than six years had elapsed since its accrual.

For those reasons and those given by Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Nicholls delivered opinions agreeing in allowing the appeal.

LORD LOYD, dissenting, said that if Parliament had intended to cover subsequent concealment there were two obvious ways in which it could have been done.

It could have provided that the limitation period should start again as in the case of a subsequent acknowledgment or part payment of a debt under section 29(5). It could have said that the right of action should be treated as having accrued on, and not before, the date of discovery of the concealment.

Alternatively, it could have provided for the running of time to be suspended. In other words, it could have provided that the period of concealment should be excluded from the computation of the limitation period, as in the case of the setting aside of an arbitration award under section 34.

But Parliament had taken neither of those courses. It had provided simply that "the period of limitation shall not begin to run until the plaintiff has discovered the ... concealment". On the face of it, those words were quite inapt to cover a case where the time limit had already begun to run.

Having given all Mr Kenridge's arguments the most favourable consideration he could, his Lordship was forced to the conclusion that Parliament had left a gap. It was a classic instance of a casus omissus. Parliament had dealt adequately with deliberate concealment at the time the cause of action accrued, but it had failed to deal with subsequent concealment.

Was that a gap that their Lordships could fill? His Lordship thought not.

In the first place, they could not be sure that Parliament had not intended to leave a gap, as it had done in the case of subsequent disability (section 28).

Second, the very fact that their Lordships were divided as to how the gap should be filled was itself sufficient inhibition.

Lord Mustill agreed with Lord Lloyd.

Solicitors: Norton Rose; Denton Hall; Oswald Hickson Collier.

The court had ordered that a

man's claim on duty of care, and that as a result they, as names on subsequent years, had been saddled with losses that should have remained with earlier years.

In those proceedings the names had not only sued their managing agents and members' agents but also in some cases the auditors.

Those cases in the main concerned names who were put on syndicates operating in the LMX market.

Although those cases had in common the nature and extent of the obligations owed by a members' agent to the names who engaged that agent, each case might well turn on the particular circumstances in which the name in question contracted with the members' agent concerned.

Some plaintiff names in portfolio selection cases were also plaintiffs in LMX cases and accordingly questions might arise from the interrelationship of the separate bases of claim.

In some cases the significance of stop loss cover taken out by names would fall to be considered.

Two pilot cases were selected by the court for early hearing. Mr Justice Gathwaite gave judgment last year in those cases *Sword Daniels v Piel and Others; Brown v KMR Services Ltd* ([1994] 4 All ER 355). An appeal in the case of *Brown v KMR Services* was due to be heard by the Court of Appeal in June.

Some claims of that type were proceeding by way of arbitration.

(e) Central fund litigation. In those cases the Society of Lloyd's claimed against the defendant names under the central fund bylaw for reimbursement of payments made from the central fund (withdrawal claims) or failure to maintain the required level of security at Lloyd's (earmarking claims).

The court ordered the hearing of certain preliminary issues common to that category of cases.

In November 1994 the Court of Appeal allowed an appeal against a judgment on preliminary issues of Community Law Society of Lloyd's, *Clemensson, Same, Mason* (The Times November 16, 1994).

Directions had been given with a view to a trial of those preliminary issues in October 1995.

(f) Other cases. There were a number of other cases which concerned the internal workings at Lloyd's.

Most of those were unlikely to entail the large scale investigations which full trials of earlier categories would involve, despite the fact that some were indirectly connected with the subject matter of those categories.

There were two cases of general importance in that category. An appeal from a decision of Mr Justice Potter on location issues *Deeny and Others v Gooda Walker Ltd and Others* (The Times January 26, 1995) was pending before the Court of Appeal.

An appeal from a decision of Mr Justice Phillips in *Cox v Banksie Members Agency Ltd and Others* (The Times January 27, 1995) as to whether "first past the post" should apply was heard by the Court of Appeal from April 26 to 28 and judgment reserved.

Power to defer amount of agent's liability

Deeny and Others v Gooda Walker Ltd and Others

Before Mr Justice Phillips [Judgment April 6]

Where the agents of underwriting names had negligently taken on risks, some of which were outstanding potential claims, there was jurisdiction for the High Court to postpone the determination of the agent's liability to the names pertaining to such anticipated claims under Order 33 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Where there was liability for negligently undertaken insurance risks, the normal rule requiring damages to be decided in a single definitive award did not apply if the risks of new claims being made and the amounts that might arise were uncertain and if it did not seem just that damages should be received for losses that had not yet been suffered.

Mr Justice Phillips so held in the Queen's Bench Division in a judgment to decide the appropriate time to determine the amount of damages to be awarded in the successful claim for damages of Michael Eunan McLaron Deeny and 3,062 others against Gooda Walker Ltd and 70 others for negligently making them liable for losses and potential losses when

Gooda Walker and the others had acted as their agents for underwriting risks in the Lloyd's insurance market.

Order 33, rule 3 provides: "The court may order any question or issue arising in a law or partly of fact and partly of law ... to be tried before, at or after the trial of the cause or matter, and may give directions as to the manner in which the question or issue shall be stated."

Rule 4(2) provides: "... different questions or issues may be ordered to be tried at different places or by different modes of trial and one or more questions or issues may be ordered to be tried before the others."

Mr Andrew Smith, QC and Mr David Lord for Mr Deeny; Mr Bernard Eder, QC and Mr Simon Bryan for Gooda Walker.

MR JUSTICE PHILLIPS said that the provisions of Order 33 enabled the court to make an award of damages in relation to part of a claim while deferring for adjudication another part. The more difficult question was whether it was appropriate to defer the assessment of that part of the names' claim that related to anticipated claims.

The current Lloyd's litigation, like personal injury actions, had special features which could justify that exceptional course. Those were:

Where relief was sought in respect of potential third party liability which was uncertain the appropriate course would usually be to defer dealing with that head of damages until the extent of the plaintiff's liability had been determined.

If the future loss position could be predicted with reasonable confidence, uncertainty would not constitute a valid objection to making a once and for all assessment of damages but the future loss position was not clear in this case.

The particular circumstance of the litigation in question might make it desirable to consider the overall implications of awarding lump sum damages: in the present case it should be asked if it was just that agents should be obliged to pay at that stage losses not yet suffered.

The special features of the instant litigation weighed strongly in favour of awarding damages when they were sustained and not in anticipation of them.

Solicitors: Wilde Sapre; Elborne Mitchell & Co.

Distinguishing private from public carriage roads

Dunlop v Secretary of State for the Environment

The term "private carriage road" had been deliberately used in an enclosure award as a term of art distinguishing that particular road from public carriage roads on which all subjects enjoyed an equal right of vehicular passage.

Mr Justice Sedley so held in the Queen's Bench Division on March 29 when allowing an application by Andrew Dunlop under Schedule 15 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to quash the Cambridgeshire County Council (Roads) Used as Public Paths Glatton Nos 5 and 7 Reclassification Order 1992 as modified and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Environment on March 30, 1994, classifying as a byway open to all traffic, for the purposes of section 54(3) of the 1981 Act, a track known in one section as Denton Road and in another as Mill Road and between the villages of Denton and Glatton in Cambridgeshire.

Whether a proper right of way for vehicular traffic existed over the track depended upon the proper construction of the Glatton with Holme Enclosure Award of 1820.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the subsequent history of many private carriage roads, which had resulted in their becoming public roads maintained at public expense, did not destroy the distinction deliberately made in enclosure awards such as the present, which concerned a track for which no case of lost modern grant had been able to be erected.

Documents order was too wide

Regina v Reading Justices, Ex parte Berkshire County Council

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Cusack [Judgment May 3]

The tests set out in section 97 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 for production of documents by third parties in criminal proceedings remained untouched by other, less stringent developments in the rules of disclosure in the criminal law.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when allowing an application by Berkshire County Council for judicial review of the decision of Reading Justices on January 23 to issue a witness summons, at the request of the defendants in an assault trial, requiring the council's director of social services to produce documents which included the social services files relating to the victim of the alleged crime.

The justices had ordered that the evidence ought not to be excluded without an opportunity of testing its relevance and importance and that there might have been such material contained in the documents.

One of the defendants in the trial asserted as an interested party.

Mr Bryan McGuire for the council; Mr Nicholas Lobbenberg for the interested party.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN, agreeing with Mr Justice Cusack, said that the respondent had relied, *inter alia*, on the case of *R v Keane* (The Times March 15, 1994; [1994] 1 WLR 746), pointing to the fact that even where documents fell within a recognised class attracting public interest immunity they were generally to be disclosed provided they satisfied the test of materiality; a test altogether less stringent than that under section 97.

His Lordship did not, however, accept that accordingly the jurisdiction under that section should be re-examined in light of the general law on discovery and the justices' order being too wide, the application would succeed.

Solicitors: Mr Ralph W. J. Garbett, Reading; Russell Jones & Walker.

No discount for guilty plea in bad driving case

Regina v Hastings

Before Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Tucker and Mr Justice Forbes [Judgment May 4]

A plea of guilty did not necessarily attract a discount from the maximum two-year prison sentence on a charge of dangerous driving where the motorist had no realistic option to pleading guilty and the sentence was appropriate to the driving.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by Lance Barry Hastings, aged 21, from a two-year sentence imposed at Bristol Crown Court by Mr Recorder Lane, QC, after a plea of guilty to dangerous driving.

The two-year maximum was provided by Schedule 2 to the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988, as substituted by section 67(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1993. He was sentenced also to six months

concurrent for driving with excess alcohol



■ OPERA 1

The finest Purcell spectacle of the tercentenary year: *King Arthur* comes to Covent Garden, lavishly staged



■ OPERA 2

... while in Cambridge a rare revival of Handel's *Partenope* reveals a wry and subtle comedy of manners

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ MUSIC 1

At the Festival Hall, Anne-Sophie Mutter opens a series that mixes violin classics with new music



■ MUSIC 2

Australia's top composer, Peter Sculthorpe, offers an Aboriginal twist to the old viol consort

OPERA: Hours and hours well-spent in the company of Purcell, Dryden, Handel and their accomplished interpreters

King of many fine subjects

The title-page description of *King Arthur*, or *The British Worth* as a "Dramatick Opera" tells only half the story. Or rather, it seems to tell more than the half which is all there really is to tell. A collaboration between Purcell and Dryden, first staged in 1691, *King Arthur* is in fact a semi-opera, a play with interpolated songs, dances, symphonies and masques.

The contemporary critic Roger North pinpointed the "fatal objection" to such "ambiguous entertainments", when he complained that they "break unity and distract the audience. Some come for the play and hate the music; others come only for the music, and the drama is a penance to them; and scarce any are well reconciled to both."

Châtelet and the Théâtre de Caen was as rapturously received as it was in Paris when Rodney Milnes reviewed it in February.

The bold decision taken by the producer Graham Vick and the musical director William Christie is to perform pretty much what Dryden and Purcell wrote. That calls for massive resources. The principal characters speak but, with a couple of exceptions, do not

King Arthur Covent Garden

sing: there are, in effect, two casts, one of singers, one of actors — not to mention the dancers, musicians and chorus. Fortunately, this being Purcell's tercentenary, the funds have been found. The impressive forces are lavishly costumed, with singers and dancers, in particular, changing outfits with a frequency that supermodels might envy. Stylishly lit by Wolfgang Göbbel, Paul Brown's designs mix the strong colours and flat perspectives of medieval manuscript illustrations with the thoroughly modern ironies of pop art. They are supported by a dazzlingly ambitious display of technical effects, deployed by Vick (and exploited by choreographer Ron Howell) with a wit and ingenuity that turn the stage machinery into one of the principal actors. Vick's direction of the human actors matches the curious tone of Dryden's play. The British dynastic hero of the

title is not the familiar figure of Arthurian legend: there is no round table here, no Lancelot, no Guinevere. This Arthur loves the blind Emmeline, so too, but unrequitedly, does Oswald, king of the Saxons. The conflict between the kings is mirrored in that between their two magicians, the virtuous Merlin and the wicked Osmond.

The drama is played out in language that moves freely between rhetoric and intimacy, between pathos and parody. Vick's cast moves with Dryden's verse. So too does Purcell's music, its infinite nuances caught to vigorous perfection by William Christie and Les Arts Florissants.

Among individual actors, Howard Ward's fervent Arthur, Samantha Cones's not-so-innocent Emmeline and Bernard Horsfall's dignified Merlin stood out; among the singers, Susannah Waters was a vivid Cupid, and Veronique Gens gave a radiant account of *Fairest Isle*. Claron McKadden as a sprightly (sprightly?) Philidel and the ghastly Grimbald of Jonathan Best rose to the challenges of the two pivotal spirit roles, characters who speak and sing.

But *King Arthur*'s magic relies above all on a brilliant ensemble effort. And in four hours of baffling, beguiling spectacle, that is exactly what it got here. Technical complexities have limited the Covent Garden run to three performances. The last of them is broadcast live on Radio 3 tonight.

IAN BRUNSKILL



Turning a non-singing role into gold: Bernard Horsfall's dignified Merlin is a highlight of Purcell's *King Arthur*

Firm grip on Handel

Partenope
West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge

OVER ten years the Cambridge Handel Opera Group's biennial productions have become a major attraction for admirers of the composer: they are backed up by proper scholarship, strongly cast and staged with a nice balance of modesty and purpose. Their sixth offering, *Partenope*, is being given complete, a full evening made even fuller on Wednesday by a capricious fire alarm that caused an unwanted pause of 40 minutes — at four-and-a-half hours, *Partenope* turned out to be as long as *King Arthur*.

As long, but no less diverting. Based on a Venetian libretto, *Partenope* gives free rein to Handel's sense of humour, its comedy of amorous manners sharpened by the audience being let in on a secret in the first scene. We know that the Armenian Prince Eurimene is in fact Princess Rosmira of Cyprus, abandoned by the Prince of Corinth in favour of the eponymous Queen of Naples, but no one else does until the very end, when the threat of a bare-chested duel reveals all. The opportunities for comic confusion are legion, but Handel balances it with genuine feeling of positively Mozartian sensibility.

The production by Richard Gregson could with advantage have laid more stress on the sharpness of the dialogue, less on its speed and some limply executed "period" gesture, and it seemed odd to play the Queen, with whom every male in the cast is helplessly in love, as a coy soubrette, unhelpfully costumed.

Ann Mackay was well cast as the cynosure of all Mediterranean eyes, and coped gracefully with the technical difficulties of *Partenope*'s arias. The absence of counter-tenors or (of course) castratos was made up for by three well-contrasted mezzo-sopranos: the forthright, nutty-toned Christine Botes as the travesti Rosmira; Catherine Richardson, lighter and more resplendent of timbre as the Corinthian prince unable to make up his mind between the two ladies; and newcomer Matilde Wallevik, beautifully velvety of tone as the lovesick Prince of Rhodes. All three made light of the hurdles Handel places in their path. The tenor role (Emilio) is perhaps the trickiest of all, and Michael Bennett had a really good go at it.

Andrew Jones, CHOG's moving spirit, conducted a spirited account of his own edition in his own rather conventional translation. The instruments were modern, full-toned, accomplished. There are repeats tomorrow and Sunday.

RODNEY MILNES

CONCERTS: Anne-Sophie Mutter in adventurous form on the South Bank; and the latest batch of Purcell-inspired viol compositions

Fiddler in the stratosphere

Besides her acknowledged supremacy in the classics of the violin repertoire, Anne-Sophie Mutter has long had a firm commitment to works of her own time. This she reaffirmed — in the first of four concerts with Semyon Bychkov conducting the Philharmonia Orchestra for the "Motorola Anne-Sophie Mutter Violin Series" — by giving the British premiere of Wolfgang Rihm's *Time-Chant*.

Stimulated by Mutter's own playing, composed in 1991-92 and since recorded, it is a single-movement work of 22 minutes' duration that exploits, in particular, the violinist's technique in the highest register — what Mutter once called the ability "to produce a *pianissimo* that also has substance". To help to achieve the intended effect, the orchestra is severely cut back, especially in a string section led by only two violins, with quartets of

Philharmonia/
Bychkov
Festival Hall

violins and cellos over a pair of basses.

At first, this ensemble seems to resonate behind the soloist rather than accompany, but later some hearty drum thwacks propel the instruments into a more rhapsodic role as the violin waxes lyrical in a tessitura that is almost inaudible. Mutter's superbly accomplished playing was finely supported by Bychkov's conducting of his compact ensemble.

It followed an opening tribute to the Hindemith centenary year. The wretchedly titled *Symphonic Metamorphoses* on *Thames* by Weber would be much more of a repertory favourite in its euppeic spirit if it had less of a mouthful to



Mutter: the British premiere of a work written for her

identify it. Here, the celebrated "Turandot Scherzo", as the second movement is labelled, would have benefited from a stronger touch of the macabre and a more laid-back sensibility generally.

Beethoven's Fifth Sympho-

ny, to end the programme, was tautly disciplined, with a stringing vehemence in the first and last movements and considerable grace in the woodwind playing elsewhere.

NOEL GOODWIN

In tune with genius

Fretwork
Purcell Room

Asking contemporary composers to respond to the Purcell tercentenary celebrations with new pieces for viol consort intended to be played side-by-side with the great man's extraordinary Fantazias is playing a dangerous game. But in the second of Fretwork's two contributions to the South Bank's festival, *The English Genus*, on Tuesday, all five new works had something to say.

Most said it engagingly, though I found Peter Sculthorpe's *Djilite* for five violas, unrelated to Purcell except in its instrumentation — instead it adapts an Aboriginal chant — bland, while Gavin Bryars's *In nomine* for six violas suffered from the well-intentioned last-minute insertion of its model, Purcell's *sublime In nomine* a 6 immediately before.

Those were the very aspects that Simon Bainbridge explored in his clever, whimsical *Henry's Mobile*, for four violas, which also looked to the colouristic possibilities of viol harmonics. For most of his short piece Bainbridge ties

himself to a two-note fragment of a theme from one of the Fantazias — a rising interval of a third. When the music finally gets away from its starting blocks, it finds itself going round in a little circle. All this is a quite deliberate marvelling at Purcell's ability to make his music grow even within the constrictions of a polyphonic method outdated in the late 17th century.

If this work would have won the prize for most ingenious homage, Dmitri Smirnov's setting of Blake's *The Lamb*, for countertenor and six violas, would have taken the laurels

for expressivity and richness of melody and harmony and for emulating that uncanny sense of openness which marks Purcell's work.

This work was beautifully sung by Michael Chance, who also gave poised performances of four Purcell songs with the lutenist Nigel North and who, at the end of the evening, sang the cantus firmus line in the midst of the texture of Purcell's *In nomine* a 7.

Chance also took significant part in the most impressive new work of the evening, the Chinese-American composer Tan Dun's *A Sinking Love*, whose text is a poem (sung in Chinese) by Li Po and whose pitch material comes from Purcell's Fantasia No 8. The violas play exclusively in harmonics, and the dynamic level is often scarcely more than a whisper. But every sound, sung or played, is carefully weighted and coloured, so that one hangs on every microscopic, poetic gesture in this moving, delicate expression of homesickness.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Herb adds taste to standard fare

JAZZ
Herb Ellis
Pizza Express, W1

LIKE the majority of jazz musicians of his generation — he will be 74 in August — guitarist Herb Ellis has a relaxed but unfailingly courteous stage manner, lacing his informative introductions to each tune with quips, and constantly encouraging his sidemen — on this occasion bassist Dave Green and drummer Clark Tracey.

Justly celebrated for his work with the mid-1950s Oscar Peterson Trio, and for his subsequent stints with Ella Fitzgerald and Great Gueters, Ellis is, unsurprisingly, a superb interpreter of standards. In swift succession before a

hushed and remarkably attentive Dean Street audience he applied his supremely elegant, mellow sound to *Days of Wine and Roses*, *Body and Soul*, *Lady Be Good*, *Willow Weep for Me* and many more. For good measure, he also threw in a couple of blues and hectic, set-closing romps through *Sweet Georgia Brown* and the *Flintstones* theme.

All three men have presumably played most of the above tunes on more occasions than they care to remember, but there was nothing in their respective demeanours to suggest standard-fatigue. On the contrary, on brisk fare such as Earl Hines's *Rosetta*, Ellis's subtly judged shifts between strummed and picked soloing were simply breathtaking.

On more subdued material, too — notably the melancholy ballad *Here's That Rainy Day* — he contrived to extract every last drop of wistfulness from the tune while simultaneously displaying sly humour and easy virtuosity.

Clearly inspired by Ellis's flawless playing, and presented, courtesy of the trio format, with more solo space than they customarily receive, Green and Tracey turned in top-class performances. Green in particular, whether providing his trademark thick purring sound under Ellis's improvisations or picking his own solo way through the familiar changes, demonstrated yet again why he is the UK's first-call bassist for so many visiting Americans: even in heady company like Ellis's, he is never outclassed.

CHRIS PARKER

Moving towards a better world

DANCE
Monte Carlo Ballet
Sadler's Wells

than drama and some of his argument gets lost in the copious choreography. So he was wise to clarify things at the end with a spoken text by I.F. Stone, urging us to think of mankind as one large happily diverse family. This

supplements a selection of music by Henryk Gorecki and contemporary American composers, recorded by the Kronos Quartet.

Sandrine Cassini and David Thole were the central pair, dressed in grey, who observe and experience the attitudes of other costume-coded groups and couples. (Couples remain distinctly unmixed in the brotherly message, which could be misconstrued as propaganda for a kind of soft New Age

apartheid.) Maillot has evolved a style which, while not a radical overhaul of classical ballet, transmutes it into a modern idiom. He has not, though, yet developed a skill for editing. Duets go on and on, follow each other carelessly and drive their spectators into the ground.

Yet I loved the simple, vivid designs by Jerome Kaplan: the curve silhouetted at the back like a section of our globe's surface; the winding curtain that cancels out the old and brings in the harmonious new. Above all, I admired the handsome, wonderfully schooled dancers, an elegant array which our own companies must surely envy.

NADINE MEISNER

RECORD REVIEW. EACH END OF THE WEEKEND.

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هكذا من الأصل



POP 1

Has he finally come of age? Boy George on life, love and a hilarious new autobiography



POP 2

Old heart-throb Scott Walker has produced his first album for years, and it's shockingly good

THE TIMES ARTS



POP 3

... while Robert Cray's *Some Rainy Morning* reveals a singer who is struggling to be passionate



POP 4

Nice to be right about the next big thing: Caitlin Moran on the rise and rise of Jeff Buckley

George and the drag off

Who is this quiet, nail-varnished gent sitting and telling Louise Gray about life and love? Why, it's Man George

Get successful and people forgive you nearly everything, Boy George O'Dowd says. "They make money from me and forget that they were the very same people who would have laughed at me 17 years ago when I was a freak about town. I suppose that's why I've always had a healthy disrespect for success. It doesn't really mean anything."

In relation to George, success is nevertheless a word that needs some modification. With Culture Club, he sold ten million albums. In 1983, their song *Karma Chameleon* spent nine weeks at No 1 in Britain. But success also refers to a victory over his personal demons: a well-publicised heroin addiction and a series of traumatic love affairs, most notably with Culture Club's drummer, Jon Moss. His latest coup is twofold: *Take It Like a Man*, an often-hilarious autobiography that takes an unflinching look at his life, and a new album.

Cheapness and Beauty is, finally, George's official coming-of-age album. Anyone who has followed George over the past 15 years will find the album tying up numerous loose ends. There are songs about Marilyn, George's brother in blusher, and good-byes to two friends, Leigh Bowery and Stevie Hughes.

It is a strong, rocking album, glittering with attitude and textures reminiscent of T. Rex or early Bowie. There are some superlative moments in its gayest songs — *Same Thing in Reverse*, *God Don't Hold a Grudge*, and the chilling *Evil is so Civilised*, a song written after a spate of homophobic murders in Texas.

George's sense of achievement is palpable. It is his fourth solo album, but he thinks of it as his first. "This is the first cohesive body of work I've done since Culture Club," he says. "I was there 100 per cent. I wasn't shopping. I wasn't clubbing. I knew exactly what I wanted. I didn't want it to be too layered or over-recorded. I wanted it to have a certain urgency."

A month short of his 34th birthday, George is now a tranquil man, his grey eyes attentive as he listens to questions. He laughs a lot. Only his

blue metallic nail varnish — and, overhead, an enormous picture of a naked soldier — hint at his sybaritic side. The nervous, exhibitionist energy of former years has been channelled into more productive outlets. He DJs regularly at clubs throughout Britain. More Protein, his independent dance label, is quietly thriving. He talks now about the necessity of personal change and responsibility, of the futility of self-centredness.

George says the album is rockier because the songs required it. "Many of the lyrics are angry or confrontational and they need the raw ferocity that guitars can give," he says. He rejects a suggestion that he may have been influenced by recent re-readings of glam rock by Suede. "If I was going to copy, I'd go straight to the source and copy Bowie," he says. "But I'd hate people to think this album was only about rocking out. It's about taking traditional forms and writing about untraditional things, like homosexuality."

"I was impressed by Nirvana. I don't think that anyone in the past 30 years of rock has said anything relevant to me, apart from Kurt Cobain. He's the only one who has said anything with any sensitivity." George launches into some lines from Nirvana's *All Apologies*: "What else can I say? Everybody's gay."

The coded lyrics and elaborate disguises George previously employed are, one suspects, a thing of the past. "Have you ever watched a drag queen getting ready?" George says by way of illustration. "I remember watching Marilyn. He became fiercer as the layers went on. He would turn into a total monster. I saw this in myself, too. I'd put on a pair of women's shoes and my character would change totally. *Satan's Butterfly Ball*, the song about Leigh Bowery, is a celebration of this kind of neurotic exhibitionism, but I can now see a sad side to it."

"I went to Bowie's tribute show at the Fine Arts Society two weeks after Leigh's death. One of Lucien Freud's Bowery paintings was there. It's a nude, absolutely unadorned. I told my manager that it was really important to see it properly. We returned the next



"Have you watched a drag queen getting ready? I'd put on a pair of women's shoes and my character would change totally"

day and both left with this terribly sad feeling. It was as if Leigh had spent his club life covering himself up, hiding himself.

"That's something I did, too, for a very long time. I was frightened that people see me looking normal. Dressing up became a mask."

Can it be liberating? "Oh, yes! My outfit at the book-launch party was one of my

most bizarre disguises. No one recognised me." The Boy pauses, as if to emphasise the difference. With nothing left to hide, he has achieved his own year zero. The future starts here.

● *Take It Like a Man*, by Boy George with Spencer Bright, is published by Sidgwick and Jackson (£15.99). *Cheapness and Beauty* is released by Virgin Records on May 22

Scott of the sub-arctic

NEW ALBUMS: Majestic metal machine music from the most Byronic of all 1960s pop idols

SCOTT WALKER

Tilt (Fontana 526 859)

THE first album by Scott Walker for 11 years is a shocker. At a time when popular taste accommodates all kinds of "difficult" artists and apparently outré musical styles, who would have thought it would take an old heart-throb from the 1960s to demonstrate what individual expression is all about?

With his voice set against a stark, semi-orchestral arrangement on the opening track, *Farmer in the Cyp*, Walker, who once studied the mysteries of Gregorian chant, sounds like a medieval monk. Although it is the most accessible of the nine long songs (all written by Walker), the number is unforgivingly severe and gripped by a morbid chill.

The Cockfighter, which follows, is a nightmarish piece of work. Propelled by cacophonous bursts of clanking, industrial noise, its surreal lyric juxtaposes images of beauty with a hint of some vile unpleasantness: "It's a beautiful night from here to those trembling stars/And the feathers so fresh/And the nerves so fresh." By this point, any lingering hopes of hearing a conventional tune, let alone a chorus, on this deeply perverse album have been dashed, and the listener will either find himself being sucked into an eerie vortex of madness and despair or reaching for the eject button.

Those who persevere will discover the brooding sense of melodrama only increases in numbers such as *Manhattan* (featuring Brian Gascoigne thundering away on a church organ), *Bolivia 95* and the title track, a scorched-earth blitz of noise by guitarist David Rhodes that sounds almost conventional in this context.

Although it confirms Walker's status as an artist more likely to be talked about than listened to, *Tilt* is a stunningly original and imaginative piece of work.

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Cream Live

(deconstruction/BMG 74321 27219)

THOSE who have a blindspot for modern dance music may be surprised to discover that it

now accounts for 40 per cent of chart recordings. Of course, in clubs such as Liverpool's 2,000-capacity Cream, the figure is 100 per cent, and dance refuseniks may smile grimly at the unintended irony of that fashionable venue's policy of accommodating "all musical tastes" which it goes on to list as "everything from garage to house to techno to hard-house to wild-pitch."

"What about Euro-hand-bag?" I hear you cry.

Cream Live is a 150-minute stretch of such music, mixed "live" in the club by DJs Pete Tong, Justin Robertson, Graeme Park and Paul Oakenfold. Thus a seamless string of specialist club hits such as the Original's *I Luv U Baby*, Carol Bailey's *Feel It* and Red Eye's *Kut It* is spliced together over the relentlessly pneumatic beat that used to be known as disco.

While *Cream Live* will doubtless provide a big slice of nirvana for dance fans, it will swiftly drive anyone else up the wall.

ROBERT CRAY

Some Rainy Morning

(Mercury 526 928)

SOPHISTICATED, urbane and, these days, several steps removed from the rough and tumble of the traditional blues he has done so much to revitalise, Robert Cray must now find a way of maintaining the passion needed to make his music ring true. For, despite the fastidious excellence of his singing and guitar playing, *Some Rainy Morning* is lacking in emotional punch.

Enough for Me is a fair example of the syndrome. With its fiddly arrangement, involving an odd rhythm and tempo change half-way through, and a lukewarm lyric warning a girlfriend that her time is almost up, the track is eventually rescued by the sheer blinding brilliance of the guitar solo at the end.

Now producing and writing the bulk of the material himself, Cray has matured into a calm and unfailingly tasteful professional. But it sounds as if he is now thinking about his music too hard to let his feelings show.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Nobody Else Take That (RCA)
- 2 Picture This Wet Wet Wet (Precious)
- 3 Greatest Hits Bruce Springsteen (Columbia)
- 4 Dummy Portishead (Go! Discs)
- 5 The Colour Of My Love Celine Dion (Epic)
- 6 Definitely Maybe Oasis (Creation)
- 7 No Need To Argue Cranberries (Island)
- 8 Wake Up! Boo Radleys (Creation)
- 9 Medusa Annie Lennox (RCA)
- 10 Parklife Blur (Food)

Compiled by MFRS

Caitlin Moran tries to find out why Jeff Buckley has dreams about having his skin flayed by a mad sculptor

Hero of the midnight hour

The last time I attempted to telescope the emotions that Jeff Buckley's music inspires into mere paragraphs and words, the phrase "Soon to be awe-inspiringly famous" crept up with as much regularity as the word "genius". That was last August, when Buckley's biggest

UK gig to date was before an exceedingly cramped hundred people Upstairs at the Garage in London. Nine months later, and Buckley has sold out the 2,000-capacity Empire and

had his debut album, *Grace*, lauded as the best of 1994 in several magazines.

"I told you so" is such a pinched-mouth phrase I won't even begin to utter it, but ...

And so my powers of cognition have brought me to New York, Buckley's adopted home town, and a conference room in the massive Sony Records building. Buckley's been doing phone interviews all day. He's grease-haired and his eyes are bruised with lack of sleep, but he's as polite as ever, leaping around trying to make everyone comfortable before dropping back into his chair and spilling his *Bad Dream* beans when requested.

"I tend to forget my dreams," he says. "They seep out of the room as I wake, and the more I try and clutch at them, the more ferociously they wriggle ... but I had a dream a couple of nights ago where, to cut a long story short, this mad artist wanted to cut my skin into strips and weave me into rococo shapes. So I'd be like a living sculpture, beautiful in his eyes, but horribly disfigured and unable to do anything but die."

Erm, that's a bit heavy, I was kind of expecting the old "Well, I'm walking naked through a supermarket when I see my old maths teacher ..."

"I have those kinds of dreams as well, I guess," he says. "It's just I don't remember them."

Does he think the bad dream had anything to do with the reams of cool-psychology written about him in the past year by people looking for his dark side; for the fissures in his personality that mean he will turn into another rock ghost whose untimely death will haunt us all?

"No one has really come

cause an explosion, or a breakdown, or lust, or extreme joy. I can talk about what I feel when the music takes hold of me — my posture changes. I hold my head high, stick my chest out; my bones seem to bend easier; the shape of my face seems to change. I feel I can do anything. It's almost sexual."

That is the end of the interview. Buckley starts striding around the building, muttering "And what's wrong with being horny?" under his breath. Nothing at all.

● Jeff Buckley's new single, *Last Goodbye*, is released by Columbia on Monday

oasis

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Carson pledges allegiance to Aqaarid

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

JOCKEYS may have an unenviable reputation as tipsters but that did not prevent the bookmakers taking hasty evasive action yesterday after Willie Carson announced he would ride Aqaarid in preference to Harayir in the Madagans 1,000 Guineas on Sunday.

The diminutive Scottish-born rider, now in his 53rd year, has few peers in the weighing room when it comes to judging the merits of thoroughbreds, but it is doubtful if Carson has ever faced a tougher task than choosing between the two fillies who have been vying for classic favouritism in recent days.

At Salisbury yesterday he kept his own counsel after finally coming down in favour of the unbeaten Fred Darling Stakes winner, trained by John Dunlop, and it was left to Angus Galt, racing manager to Hamdan Al-Maktoum, to

decision by trimming Aqaarid from 11-4 to 9-4 and pushed out Harayir from 7-2 to 4-1. Bookmakers cut Aqaarid to 5-2 from 3-1 and left Harayir unchanged at 7-2.

Dunlop, who won the 1,000 Guineas with Salsabir and Shadavay in 1990 and 1991 respectively, was understandably thrilled by yesterday's developments. "It is great to see the unbeaten association with Aqaarid. He has been a good picker in the past and has won two 1,000 Guineas for me so let's hope it is never two without three."

Carson's deliberations mean Richard Hills has his best chance of winning his first classic on Harayir. He said: "I rode Harayir last week and she gave me a good feel. It is a case of which filly is right on the day."

The unseasonably hot weather, which saw temperatures in Newmarket reach the high seventies yesterday, is likely to ensure fast ground by Sunday but the connections of Celtic Swing, odds-on for Saturday's 2,000 Guineas, will have been relieved to hear last night that the going is officially good as the three-day Guineas meeting begins today.

One million gallons of water have been applied to the Rowley Mile course in preparation for the historic meeting — equivalent to one inch of rain last week and another inch this week.

Nick Lees, clerk of the course, commented: "The going is definitely good and indeed we have just cut the grass and could tell by the tractor marks that the ground in places is very moist. Of course, the ground will dry out but I think that the going will stay good tomorrow. I suspect that it will be good, fast ground on Saturday and good to firm on Sunday."

"We watered the course on two days last week, and all day Tuesday and Wednesday this week. At the moment we are not planning to water any more. We thought that if the course dries up any more than anticipated it would be possible to put a small amount of



Carson is reunited with Aqaarid after their victory in the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury last month

water on the course during the meeting."

Peter Savill, owner of Celtic Swing, is remaining remarkably calm as the day racing has been waiting for all winter approaches. "I am probably

more relaxed than I should be because of the total confidence I sense. Kevin Darley has in this horse," he said yesterday. "He normally verges on the pessimistic rather than the optimistic but there is no

question that in everything he says, thinks and feels, he has an amazing amount of confidence in him. Celtic Swing is an amazingly easy horse to ride. You can switch him on and off like a light switch."

Paul Cole will send Precede to contest the Italian Derby in Rome on May 28 after the colt's workmanlike performance in winning the Pentland Conditions Stakes at Salisbury yesterday.

Nap: TIKKANEN
(3.40 Newmarket)

Next best: Moonlight Saunter
(4.50 Newmarket)

hint at the difficulty faced by Carson.

"He told me before setting off to ride at Ascot on Wednesday that he was going to ride Harayir and then phoned me last night to say he had changed his mind, so you can realise how close a decision it must have been," he said. "He knows he could be on the wrong one."

The jockey who decided successfully between Troy and Milford in the 1979 Derby knows that Harayir, trained by Dick Hern, boasts plenty of speed and arguably has better public form than Aqaarid. However, Dunlop's unbeaten filly has probably been underrated, almost certainly has more scope for improvement and, in due course, could prove to be an exceptional horse.

Corals reacted to Carson's

NEWMARKET

THUNDER
2.25 Kelly's Darling, 2.55 Mugoni Beach, 3.30 Wolf Winter, 4.05 Sprinter's Hope, 4.40 Bold Choice, 5.10 Hostile Witness, 5.40 Flawed Logic.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.25 SUEO CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (21.875; 2m 10) (11 runners)

1 0056 THE EXECUTIONER 85 (G.D.) M. P. 12-12-94. L. Reynolds (2)
2 501-1 DECIDED 41 (G.D.) R. H. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
3 501-2 VISION OF FREEDOM 85 (G.D.) W. H. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
4 0053 QUALITY MEMORY 77 (G.D.) F. A. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
5 0059 KELLY'S DARLING 27 (G.D.) R. H. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
6 501-3 TOWNSEND 85 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
7 2115 CLOVERMAN 140 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
8 501-4 EZE CHARGER 18 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
9 501-5 ABSOLUTELY RIGHT 14 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
10 0055 MILDRED SOPHIA 85 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
11 0051 JUMPING JUDGE 85 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)

2.55 DUBLIN NOVICES CHASE (23.501; 2m 5) (9)

1 0291 MUGONI BEACH 13 (G.D.) M. P. 12-12-94. L. Reynolds (2)
2 0292 BEE MY HONEY 13 (G.D.) M. P. 12-12-94. L. Reynolds (2)
3 0293 CYPRIUS 33 (G.D.) M. P. 12-12-94. L. Reynolds (2)
4 0294 RELIC 65 (G.D.) M. P. 12-12-94. L. Reynolds (2)
5 0295 LIPZANER 13 (G.D.) M. P. 12-12-94. L. Reynolds (2)
6 0296 RICHMOND 9 (G.D.) M. P. 12-12-94. L. Reynolds (2)
7 0297 TUMBLEBROOK 18 (G.D.) M. P. 12-12-94. L. Reynolds (2)
8 0298 WEST BAY 13 (G.D.) M. P. 12-12-94. L. Reynolds (2)
9 0299 M. DUNCAN 13 (G.D.) M. P. 12-12-94. L. Reynolds (2)

3.30 WICKLOW HURDLE (24.492; 3m 11) (4)

1 3022 PARTO PRINCE 14 (G.D.) C. P. 12-12-94. L. Reynolds (2)
2 3023 BATHURST HURDLE 185 (G.D.) W. H. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
3 3024 CELTIC PRINCE 49 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
4 3025 WOLF WINTER 11 (G.D.) C. P. 12-12-94. L. Reynolds (2)

There are ten tentacles for the Dalham Chester Vase next Tuesday: Balliol Boy, Court Of Honour, In Camera, Luso, Maralinga, Northern Law, Royal Scimitar, Singpiel, Stiffelio, Tamara.

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDER
6.00 Red Jam Jar, 8.30 Keep Your Distance, 7.00 Eden River, 7.30 No More Trk, 8.00 Cuthroft Kid, 8.30 Glenfinn Princess.

GOING: FIRM

6.00 JOHN WADE HAULAGE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (22.076; 2m 5) (10) (11 runners)

1 5521 RED JAM JAR 224 (G.D.) S. H. 12-12-94. K. Johnson (2)
2 601-1 ALFRED 22 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
3 0298 THURSDAY 16 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
4 0299 BURN BRIDGE 6 (G.D.) L. J. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
5 0295 ROXY BOY 11 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
6 0296 LITTLE SHERA 11 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
7 0297 ON GOLDEN POND 97 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
8 0298 CRADOCK 11 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
9 0299 WASSIE 11 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
10 0295 CHARTER FAIR 447P (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
11 0296 HARTO TO GET 10 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
12 0297 CASA BELLA 18 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
13 0298 STATION EXPRESS 14 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
14 0299 BLUEBELT TRACK 6 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)

6.30 REG BOYLE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HURDLE (22.227; 2m 11) (10) (6)

1 3033 KEEP YOUR DISTANCE 34 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
2 6034 CARPENTER'S 34 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
3 6035 CARPENTER'S 34 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
4 6036 PARADISE ROW 22 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
5 6037 HARTO TO GET 10 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
6 6038 CASA BELLA 18 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
7 6039 STATION EXPRESS 14 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)
8 6040 BLUEBELT TRACK 6 (G.D.) M. P. 12-11-12. J. Dunlop (2)

Blindered first time

Newmarket: 3.40 Wayne County BANGOR: 5.45 Kaiti, 6.15 Regal Rambling, 6.30 Salsabir, 6.45 Regal Rambling, 6.50 Sweet Caterham, 7.00 Paradise Row, 7.20 Tres Amigos, 7.30 Sweet Caterham, 7.40 Paradise Row, 7.50 Tres Amigos, 8.00 Sweet Caterham, 8.10 Paradise Row, 8.20 Tres Amigos, 8.30 Sweet Caterham, 8.40 Paradise Row, 8.50 Tres Amigos, 9.00 Sweet Caterham, 9.10 Paradise Row, 9.20 Tres Amigos, 9.30 Sweet Caterham, 9.40 Paradise Row, 9.50 Tres Amigos, 10.00 Sweet Caterham, 10.10 Paradise Row, 10.20 Tres Amigos, 10.30 Sweet Caterham, 10.40 Paradise Row, 10.50 Tres Amigos, 11.00 Sweet Caterham, 11.10 Paradise Row, 11.20 Tres Amigos, 11.30 Sweet Caterham, 11.40 Paradise Row, 11.50 Tres Amigos, 12.00 Sweet Caterham, 12.10 Paradise Row, 12.20 Tres Amigos, 12.30 Sweet Caterham, 12.40 Paradise Row, 12.50 Tres Amigos, 13.00 Sweet Caterham, 13.10 Paradise Row, 13.20 Tres Amigos, 13.30 Sweet Caterham, 13.40 Paradise Row, 13.50 Tres Amigos, 14.00 Sweet Caterham, 14.10 Paradise Row, 14.20 Tres 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RADIO CHOICE

A little light reading would be otter bliss

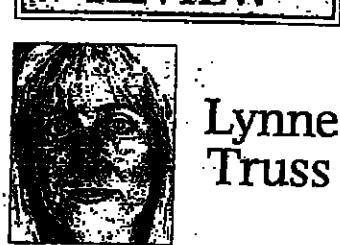
If there was ever an animal crying out "Books! Give us books!", it is the sea otter. While the rest of us achieve the perfect reading conditions for a mere fortnight each year — floating on a lilo with our heads propped up — the sea otter spends every waking hour in this luxurious position, paddling itself with its rear flippers, waving to its mates, and resting its current interest neatly on its densely furred chest. The otter's body is like a combination desk, tray and rubber raft; by comparison, the human capacity to store salt in the belly button while eating a tomato looks like nothing at all.

The sea otter has got it made. Babies are ferried about on their mothers' chests; for its dinner, the otter balances a rock on its middle, and smartly taps shellfish until they split open. All it needs to complete the picture of marine sybaritism is the new John le Carré

and a bowl of pistachios. A pair of Ray-Bans would also be good. Never will a David Attenborough narration stoop to such fancy, of course. Rightly so. But it still seemed amazing last night that it never broke off from its usual awed and measured tone to exclaim, "But these guys are so cute!" Filmed in beautiful sapphire coastal waters off California and Alaska, the otters floated, twisted and rolled, and occasionally let their head for dry out, so that they resembled something expensive from a soft-toy department.

Sometimes they anchored themselves on a raft of sea kelp, and then lay back for a snooze with their arms above their heads, or lazily rubbed their noses. The worst thing about sea otters seems to happen to a sea otter is sex — being buoyant and slippery, it's so difficult getting a hold that the mating couple bob and roll like barrels until the male finally bites

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

the female's nose to get steady. (Don't try this at home.) For once, there was no film of predators snatching pups; just magnificent underwater shots of the animals diving for abalone and weaving through sunlit kelp. A young pup attempted to do the trick of anchoring itself to kelp, but chose sea grass by mistake. She floated off and got caught in eddies, a bit like *Bygone* in *The House at Pooh Corner*. Otherwise, since they were protected in 1911, the biggest threat to sea otters is oil from the offshore drilling — plus of course the absence of decent fisheries stocked with titles such as *The Sea, The Sea*.

deemed strong stuff for the pre-watershed audience, despite the fact that our kiddies care most about such things. Last night's episode took the chaps from the Environmental Investigation Agency into the world of illicit rhino horn trafficking. In southern Africa, desperate poachers slaughter the few remaining rhinos, so that in China, gangsters can get a bit carried away. "The rhino has survived for 40 million years.

rhino horn costs more than cocaine.

These animal detectives are in no way romanticised. They don't have time, for example, to sit in their hotel rooms discussing how depressed they felt when they found Chinese street markets selling tiger bone and bear gall as well as rhino horn. This is the real world.

This is a 30-minute programme with authentic fish-bowl filming. If these people are posing as rhino horn traders, they must carry a briefcase full of money; they must inspect a haul of horns worth £4 million as if they are impressed, not appalled. Everyone else involved in the trade considers it normal: top man Mr Wu offers them police protection to get the stuff to the Hong Kong border.

Only in the voice-over do the feelings show; and arguably they get a bit carried away. "The rhino has survived for 40 million years.

It may be extinct in the next five," was the alarming pay-off last night. But when the narrator mentioned the "enormity" of the crime, it was reassuring to think that he meant the monstrous wickedness and not just the usual (wrong) "enormousness".

There was a time when the children of the television generation kept their mouths shut about it. More wholesome kiddies might associate Thursdays with Brownies or piano; to me, Thursday will always be *Rag, Tag and Bobtail* or *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* (Friday was *The Virginian*). As I say, this used to be something shameful that you kept to yourself, but not any more. Watching Paul Merton's *Life of Comedy* (BBC1), I was reminded that one of my earliest photographs shows me sliding off a chair next to a bakelite television set. The television is in

focus; I am a blur beside it. Funny how life turns out.

Anyway, the point is, *Paul Merton's Life of Comedy* is about the stuff he enjoyed on television — and, well, so what? Some of the clips were surprisingly modern (Beryl Reid popping next door to ask neighbour Joan Sims, "You wouldn't have such a thing as a flute? We've just had a flautist call, and we've got a thing in it, but I think I'll reserve judgment until the six-part series has settled in a bit. Merton's flights of fancy are always much funnier in conception than in execution, somehow. The home life of the Merton family — with the family watching Grandfather in a corner until the television arrived — sounds a good idea until you see it. "I'll just see what's on the other side," said Mr Merton Senior (as played by Paul in a moustache and V-neck). And he turns Grandfather around to face the wall.

BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast (60018)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (10194785)
- 9.05 Kilroy (s) (1452211)
- 10.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (7373018) 10.05 *EastEnders* — The Early Days (r) (Ceefax) (5118560)
- 10.35 Arctic River: The flora and fauna of Canada's Mackenzie River (525921)
- 11.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (9392478)
- 11.05 Victory for the Cause of Freedom — Parliament's Tribute. John Tusa introduces the first of the weekend's live events commemorating VE-Day — Parliament's tribute from Westminster Hall (2036125) 12.50 Regional News and weather (1508834)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (48478) 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (8610174)
- 1.50 Going for Gold with Henry Kelly (s) (50008378) 2.15 The Flying Doctors (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1329114) 3.00 *Gourmet Ireland*. Paul and Jeanne Rankin sample cuisine in Co Cork (s) (4388) 3.30 *LifeLine*. Sir Bobby Charlton with an appeal on behalf of the British Disabled Water Ski Association (r) (Ceefax) (s) (5312850)
- 3.45 Dinobabies (r) (1350521) 4.05 X-Men (s) (2241747) 4.30 Round the Twist (r) (s) (1128222) 4.55 *Newsround*. A VE-Day anniversary special live from Berlin and London's Hyde Park (7401128) 5.05 Blue Peter. (Ceefax) (s) (1886872)
- 5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (944582)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (921)
- 6.30 Regional news magazines (501)
- 7.00 *NEW* The Weekend Show presented by Dale Winton with Dale Thompson and Liza Tarbuck. A collection of off-beat Britain (s) (8998)



Pakravan and Stabelford in Siberia (7.30pm)

- 7.30 *Tomorrow's World*. (Ceefax) (s) (785)
- 8.00 Lovejoy (r) (Ceefax) (s) (286292)
- 8.50 TV Heroes (327259)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8835)
- 9.30 News 48: VE-Day. The news of 50 years ago presented in today's style. (Ceefax) (200556)
- 9.45 999. More stories from the casebooks of Britain's emergency services. (Ceefax) (s) (726308)
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FRIDAY MAY 5 1995

Leeds resigned to losing Hanley

Davies opts for future in Australia

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IN THE player merry-go-round, Jonathan Davies jumped horses yesterday to join the Australian Rugby League (ARL) and Leeds finally conceded that Ellery Hanley, the Great Britain coach, is about to turn his back on the new Super League to become player-coach at Illawarra.

Neither is in the first flush of youth: Hanley is 34 and Davies will be the same age when his contract with Warrington ends after another two seasons and he is free to move to Australia. But their names provide the ARL with valuable kudos in its battle against the trans-global influence of the Super League.

As a player, there is more long-lasting life in Martin Hall, 25. The Wigan and Wales hooker also added his signature yesterday to the list of defectors to the ARL. "I didn't really want to leave Wigan, but could not organise a satisfactory new deal and the Australian offer was impossible to refuse," Hall said. He has agreed a three-year deal that starts when his contract at Central Park expires in 12 months.

Hanley's move has been mooted for more than a week. Davies was more of a surprise, particularly as he had said he intended to retire in two years. He signed an extended contract with Warrington in December, after rejecting a £185,000 full-time move to North Queensland Cowboys, for whom he will be appearing this summer.

"It's life, I suppose you could say," he said. "There were loyalty deals being bandied about, but mainly at the younger players. I was impressed with what the ARL had to offer, though at this stage I'm not sure who I'll be playing for and exactly when I will start."

Confusion abounds. Davies can represent Wales in the

World Cup in October, but afterwards will be *persona non grata* in international terms, having signed for the ARL. The fact that he will be playing for Warrington, a Super League club, for another two seasons casts him as both a rebel and a conformist.

The same applies to Jason Robinson and Gary Connolly at Wigan. Two other Great Britain backs, they are not committed to the ARL for another two and three years respectively, but the World Cup will represent their last international ambitions, unless



Davies accepted offer

less the ARL and Super League can solve a ridiculous impasse.

In the meantime, the possibility of Davies linking up with Jeremy Guscott in the centre for Warrington has prompted feverish speculation. Facts are harder to come by, other than that Peter Higham, the Warrington chairman, has expressed an interest in the Bath and England rugby union threequarter, and Mike Burton, Guscott's agent, has confirmed that his man has a price.

"Jeremy would consider an

offer if the right one came along," Burton said. "He's got the World Cup coming up, but may consider one afterwards."

The departure this month of Allan Bateman, to Cronulla, has prompted a search by Warrington. Burton said: "Everyone has put two and two together and come up with five. There is a gap opening up for good midfield players but I haven't spoken to Peter Higham. I would be happy to, though. Jeremy fits the bill and it's a question of whether or not Warrington can pay."

"I can't say whether Jeremy is considering a move. I don't know what's going on in his head, but anyone offered £500,000 is interested," Brian Johnson, the Warrington coach, said the club had no comment to make about the rumours.

Guscott, who nearly joined St Helens early in his career, might feel that, as he is 30 in July, the time is right to cash in on his talent. Figures being mentioned, however, are hardly commensurate with his age, form and medical history, on which Warrington would be taking an expensive gamble.

Doug Laughton, the Leeds manager, who has sung Guscott's praises in the past, denied any interest. "I might lose four or five players, but I'm not throwing any names about just yet," Laughton said. "Ellery going to Australia will be a blow to us, as it would to lose any good player. There just isn't another Ellery Hanley about."

Laughton also has the onerous task, six days after the resounding defeat by Wigan in the Challenge Cup final, of lifting his charges for the Stones Bitter Premiership first-round tie with Bradford Northern at home tonight.

Scott Gibbs, who has received a loyalty bonus for staying with St Helens, has been ruled out of the competition and will also miss a planned summer stint with Manly-Warringah because of a dislocated elbow.



Gifford cannot conceal her delight at the dressage performance of Midnight Blue II on the opening day of Badminton. Photograph: Julian Herbert

King Kong gives Thomson narrow lead

By JENNY MACARTHUR

MARY THOMSON, of Britain, riding King Kong, held a slender two-point lead ahead of the New Zealander, Mark Todd, the defending champion, on Just An Ace at the end of the sun-drenched first day of dressage at the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials yesterday.

The two leading riders still have their best dressage horses — King William and Bertie Blunt — to come today. Ian Stark, the 1991 European champion, who is making a comeback after two lean years, is a close third on his new ride, Caliber, owned by Jane Storey.

Thomson, 33, who was runner-up with the Frizzell

Team's King Kong at Burghley in September, did well to contain the ten-year-old gelding's exuberance yesterday. "He's like a naughty schoolboy," she said. "I could feel him beginning to buzz." Her performance earned high marks from all three judges.

Todd, could scarcely conceal his delight with Just An Ace, who has always found the dressage phase the most difficult. "It's probably the best he's done," he said. "He seems to be maturing at last."

Stark's test, apart from the walk, was consistent and correct. He was asked to ride the nine-year-old Caliber last August. A month later he took him to Burghley where they were twelfth. "I didn't think he was a Badminton horse

when I first rode him," Stark said. "He had been ridden on a long, loose rein and every time I tried to set him up for a fence, he came back to a trot."

Other good tests yesterday came from the 1992 Olympic team silver medal-winner, Victoria Latta, of New Zealand, on Chief, and Kristina Gifford, of Britain, with Midnight Blue II. They are fourth and fifth respectively. Gifford, a member of the gold medal-winning team at last year's world championships, bought the ten-year-old Midnight Blue II as a three-year-old but did not compete with him until he was six. "He's a late developer," she said, "but he's a very honest horse and always tries his best."

Karen Dixon, although

only nineteenth on Hot Property, was thrilled with his effort. She is likely to improve on her placing in tomorrow's speed and endurance phase which, with its emphasis on bold, aggressive jumping, should suit both her horses.

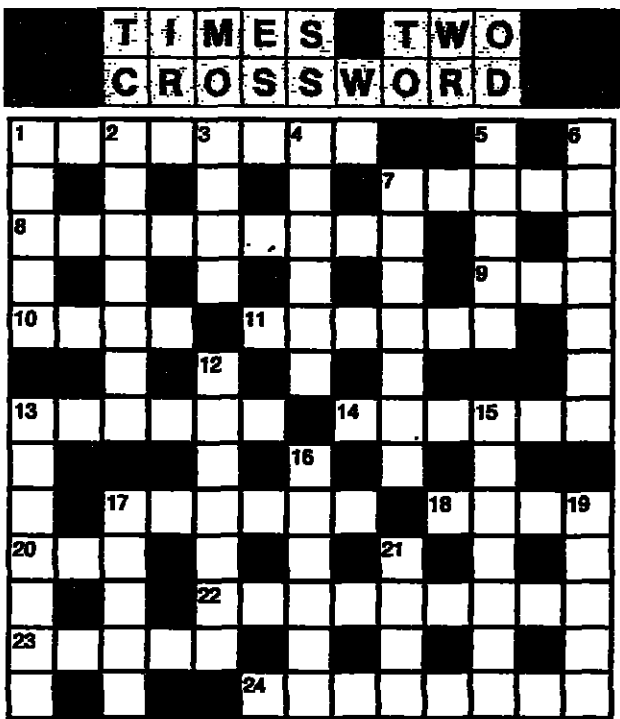
Thomson's main worry tomorrow is the water. "King Kong's been spooky since Burghley. That was the biggest course he has jumped and it set him back a bit afterwards," she said. She plans to go the long way at the first water, Fence 13, and, if he jumps that well, go the quick way at the infamous Lake fence.

Todd has no such inhibitions with Just An Ace. Although the 13-year-old gelding, owned by Bond In-

ternational, made an untypical mistake at The Quarry two years ago, he finished fifth last year after a faultless performance. Todd will take the quickest route with the possible exception of the narrow arrowhead at Fence 11.

Before tomorrow the pecking order is likely to have changed. Thomson, Todd, Dixon and Gifford all ride their better horses today when others competing include Matt Ryan and Kybah Tic Toc, of Australia, the Olympic champions, and Bruce Davidson, of the United States, a dual world champion, on Eagle Lion.

POSITIONS (after first day of dressage): 1. King Kong (M Thomson, GB), 47.00; 2. Just An Ace (M Todd, NZ), 49.0; 3. Caliber I (Stark, GB), 50.2; 4. Chief (V Latta, NZ), 50.4; 5. Midnight Blue II (K Gifford, GB), 51.50; 6. Evodon Magna (L Dixon, GB), 52.0.



No 463

- ACROSS**
- Philby, as spy: The —, Lime film (5,3)
 - Herd (livestock on journey) (5)
 - Be naughty (9)
 - Consume (3)
 - Garnment; error (4)
 - Ring; museum official (6)
 - Loveliest of trees for Houseman (6)
 - Selector (6)
 - Pre-Christmas Church season (6)
 - Extended; desire (4)
 - Series of performances (3)
 - US Gen. Jackson nickname (9)
 - Position; moment; element of argument (5)
 - Decent standard of behaviour (4,4)
- DOWN**
- Multiplied by (5)
 - Investigate; give rise to (7)
 - Tied; sketched (4)
 - Deciduous, large-flowered Rhododendron-genus plant (6)
 - Extend over; false identity (5)
 - Tanned hide (7)
 - Loss of hope (7)
 - College, cathedral bead; MP (7)
 - Spoiled; venal (7)
 - Clever-dick (4-3)
 - African country, capital Luanda (6)
 - Smith's block; ear-bone (5)
 - Rain-out channel (5)
 - Apprehension, alarm (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 462
ACROSS: 1 Studia 5 Luf 8 Coax 9 Trombone 10 Timesome
11 Tili 12 Ashlar 14 Thrush 16 Stay 18 Picked up 20 Cataract
21 Void 22 Clue 23 Drying
DOWN: 2 Tropics 3 Dixie 4 Action replay 5 Lobster 6 Final
7 Domesticated 13 Lay bare 15 Saurian 17 Trawl 19 Envoy

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RFU men call for Carling apology

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHATEVER audience figures Channel 4 anticipated for the second in their sports series *Fair Game* last night, they could reasonably expect the 57 members of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) committee to have gathered round their sets, eager — and in some cases, angered — to see what further insults England's captain could hurl their way.

In the programme, which examines whether rugby union can sustain its amateur pretensions, Will Carling dismissed those who administer the game in England: "If the game is run properly as a professional game, you do not need 57 old farts running rugby," he said, blithely ignoring the hypothesis that any contracted professional making such remarks might be guilty of bringing the game into disrepute.

Carling could find himself in hot water in any case. Tony Hallett, who represented the Navy on the RFU committee and is due to become secretary in July, said: "I have been called many worse names, but I am sure Will's comments will be raised in committee next week. It is a pity he made these comments at such a time, as the whole country is trying to get behind England just before they go to South Africa."

The committee has worked closely with the players all season and we are close to making a significant announcement which will be to their benefit."

Some of those who bear the brunt of his criticism will demand a public apology. Danie Serfontein, 61 and a former RFU president who

has served on the committee since 1972, is appalled at Carling's comments. "If it is true what he has said, then I will certainly make the strongest possible moves to get him to apologise and to write individually to each committee member," he said.

"There are people spending a lot of money to go to South Africa to support Will and his team in the World Cup this month and it's a desperate insult to them."

Serfontein chaired the RFU working party established to consult with the players over their commercial aspirations and his own views were not always shared by the more reactionary members of the committee. "England players have always been critical of the committee, perhaps rightly so sometimes, but there are a lot of people working very hard to push the game along and for the England captain to speak out like this is unacceptable," he added.

The committee includes a headmaster, several serving officers in the armed forces and a number of successful businessmen. It is being restructured partly to accommodate younger talent and, next season, it will include Bill Beaumont, the 1980 grand slam captain, and Jeff Probyn, the England and Wasps prop, who is still playing.

Mark Bailey, at 34 the youngest committee member, played in the same back England division as Carling four times, and declared it to have been a "lifetime ambition to reach old foggerydom". He added: "I'm deeply flattered that someone thinks I should have made it by 34."

Middlesex felled by Stephenson

By PAT GIBSON

LORD'S (first day of four: Middlesex won toss): Hampshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 34 runs behind Middlesex.

JOHN MAJOR must be in despair. If ever the "feel-good" factor was going to manifest itself, it was at Lord's yesterday. The great ground has never looked better, the year was certainly at its spring, Paul Getty was in his box and all seemed right with the world.

Then they went out to play. Denis Compton, looking down from high in the Mound Stand, could probably have made a century with his walking-stick but nothing is quite what it seems these days.

West Indies inquest — 42
Warwickshire on form — 42
Gooch sparkles — 43

and he was left scratching his head in disbelief as 16 wickets went down in the day.

He was not the only one. The straw-coloured pitch looked much as it must have done in Compton's halcyon days, and the most plausible explanation was that it was the moisture lurking just below the surface which made the ball swing all day and helped John Stephenson, Hampshire's captain designate, to destroy Middlesex with a spell of seven for 17 in 62 deliveries.

Stephenson finished with seven for 51, his best figures in ten years of county cricket, but no sooner had he performed like an England bowler than he reacted like one. He left the

field complaining of a groin strain and was unable to open the Hampshire innings.

He could not put his feet up for long. Hampshire, facing a modest total of 189, were soon in even more trouble against the moving ball than Middlesex and he had been caught and bowled by Embury by the close, when they were 105 for six.

It had been a strange sort of day from the moment Gattling launched the Middlesex innings by clattering Streak, Hampshire's Zimbabwean bowler, for six fours in his first three overs, and then departed, caught behind off Connor, before his partner, Pooley, had even got off the mark.

Pooley had already been dropped by Streak, who could not cling to a stinging catch at the end of his follow-through, and he was dropped again in the slips off Streak before Connor put him out of his misery. That brought in Ramprakash, who was to play the innings of the day although even he never looked secure.

Carr joined him in a partnership of 91 and looked mystified when Stephenson began the mayhem by bowling him with a ball which plucked on middle stump and hit off. But Ramprakash had only himself to blame when he struck a flat-batted drive to extra cover after hitting nine fours in his 71. The rest was a procession. Middlesex lost their last eight wickets for 36 and then Feltham and Nash showed that anything Stephenson could do from the nursery end they could do just as well. As for the batting, it did not get any better.

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